

Creative Photography I

ART 244 B

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 AM – 12:20 PM

Online

Fort Hays State University

Fall 2020

Instructor:

Nick Simko

Assistant Professor, Photography

Zoom Office Hours:

Mondays from 2:30 – 4:30

Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30

Wednesdays from 2:30 – 4:30

and appointments by request

ncsimko@fhsu.edu

Course Description

This totally online course is an intensive exploration of the medium of digital photography. Students will be introduced to camera functions, image capture, and digital editing. They will also learn how to think conceptually and to create photographs as works of art. Through weekly assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and critiques, students will cultivate a variety of new tools for creative exploration and expression in the medium. Further, students will consider the rich and complex history of photography as well as a range of contemporary photographic practices. The course culminates in a self-directed final project that will require each student to use their technical knowledge to create a cohesive group of digital images.

Class time will be a combination of technical demonstrations, lab time, class critiques, in-class discussions, and slide presentations, as well as occasional artist talks. Students are expected to participate in every class session, and to devote a considerable amount of time outside of class to making their photographic work. This class is time-intensive, and will require each student's consistent engagement and self-directed problem solving. Critiques are an integral part of this course, where students will share their work and ideas with each other in a thought-provoking and constructive environment. This course requires each student to have a digital camera or smartphone that can shoot at least 18 megapixels (MP), a memory card, and access to Adobe Lightroom Classic. This course does not include darkroom instruction.

Course Goals

- Gain fluency with the digital camera and camera principles
- Cultivate an awareness of contemporary issues in fine art photographic practice
- Develop the ability to critically analyze and discuss photographic images

Projects

Students will turn in 5 projects over the course of the semester. Each project is designed to help students gain familiarity with the overall practice of photography as both a technical medium and as a conceptual way of creating art. These projects make up 75% of each student's grade.

Unit	Dates	Projects	Themes	Skills
1	8/17-9/8	Sound into Vision CRIT Date: September 2* Still Life Self-Portrait CRIT Date: September 7 *Wednesday Crit	Abstraction as a visual language Still life as symbolic	DSLR/Smartphone basics, manual mode, exposure, RAW, ISO, shutter speed aperture/depth of field, focal length, reciprocity, color temperature, composition Lightroom basics, contact sheets, exporting
2	9/9-9/29	Narrative CRIT Date: September 28	Visual storytelling	Lightroom editing, color correction, image sequencing, cropping, selective edits, hue, saturation, luminance, black and white presets
3	9/30-10/20	Portraiture CRIT Date: October 19	Collaborative image-making	Lighting, working with available light, shooting indoors, interviewing subjects
4	10/21-11/10	Landscape CRIT Date: November 9	Notions of place, space, and time	Outdoor lighting, HDR, panorama
5	11/10-12/3	Final CRIT Date: November 30	Of each student's own choosing	Synthesis of skills for self-directed final project

Each project will conclude with in-class critiques. Part of learning to make outstanding photographic images requires an understanding of the diverse ways in which people see images and the underlying histories that they bring to looking at works of art. This process can only be carried out through discussion. Attendance and participation in Zoom critiques is required, no exceptions. Failure to attend critique results in a zero for that project. In addition, projects lose one letter grade for each day they are late.

There will be a number of in-class assignments designed to help students with the various projects. While these in-class assignments may not be graded, they are required.

Evaluation

All assignments are graded equally on evidence of developing photographic skills such as conceptual depth, formal decision-making (exposure, composition etc.), image quality, and participation in critique. Students can expect full points for each category according to the following criteria:

Conceptual	Outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem solving, clear visual demonstration of ideas expressed from abstract vision to photographic image
Formal	Excellent execution overall, in-camera choices appropriate, digital editing perfected, carefully formulated compositions
Image Quality	Images have perceptual (accurate) color, correct image size, presented with the correct formatting
Participation	Student has thoughtful, constructive feedback to offer to classmates in critique, submits work in progress in a timely fashion and actively engages in one-on-one meetings with instructor

Work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them, will not receive full points.

Above all, each student's success in this course will be determined by their individual willingness to explore the many facets of photographic image-making paired with satisfactory progress towards a working familiarity with digital imaging technologies. In other words, students will be evaluated on their personal commitment to making photographs that are exciting and meaningful to them AND their understanding of how the camera and software operates.

Grading*

- A** Outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem solving, demonstrating clear evidence of risk-taking. Excellent technical execution.
- B** Work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them.
- C** Assignment completed according to expectations, doing what is asked, minimal risk-taking, technique not entirely refined
- D** Less than satisfactory completion of expectations, minimal results, late, sloppy, or incomplete.
- F** Failure to complete minimum expectations.

*Assignments may also be re-done to receive a higher grade.

Late Work

This is a college-level course and all work should be completed and turned in on time. For every day that a project is late, students will lose a full letter grade for that project. If a student misses a critique, that student will receive a zero for that project.

Grade Breakdown

Projects	60%
Artist Presentation	5%
Final Project	15%
Participation/Attendance	20%
Total	100%

Class Meetings

This course will meet live via Zoom on Mondays from 10:30 AM – 12:20 PM. The link is available on Blackboard. During this time, we will have critique, lectures, review assignments, and discuss digital imaging skills.

While we will not meet together as a class on Wednesdays and Fridays via Zoom, students will be assigned video tutorials and exercises related to skill-based areas of image capture and editing. It is expected that students will be working during this time on Wednesdays and Fridays.

If you have any questions, please come to my Zoom office hours on Mondays from 2:30 – 4:30, Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30, and Wednesdays from 2:30 – 4:30.

Attendance

Attendance is absolutely mandatory on all days and for the entire duration of class time.

Student grades will be adversely affected by absences, lateness, or premature exit from class unless otherwise arranged with the instructor **beforehand**. More than three (3) unexcused absences will result in a lowering of a grade by a full letter grade. Being late to class or leaving early three (3) times is equal to one (1) absence. All of the instructor's contact information is listed on this syllabus; therefore, it is the student's responsibility (and that student's responsibility alone) to notify the instructor, **in advance**, about any absences. Students should not allow attendance ruin their grade. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained all of the material they missed for any absence by checking the online resource portal or e-mailing the instructor. If a student is aware that they will be absent ahead of time, all work, including in-class assignments, must be done *in advance* in order to get full points.

Online Component / E-mails

This class will utilize Zoom for live in class meetings and Blackboard for course content. Announcements for the class will be sent out through Blackboard directly via FHSU e-mail. It is essential that students check their FHSU e-mail on a daily basis to receive assignments, lectures, directions, and updates with regards to the class. Failure to do so will adversely affect student performance in this class and ultimately a student's grade.

Expectations and Academic Dishonesty

The work presented in class **MUST** be made by the student from initial idea to final finished product. Any work made by anyone other than the student will **NOT** be accepted; nor will work that was made prior to this class; nor will work that is/was made for another class. If students have questions about academic honesty in relation to this course, please ask the instructor. Turning in someone else's work will result in an automatic failure of the course (a letter grade of "F" with academic dishonesty). Creative Photography I, like all studio and academic classes, demands a commitment of time in order to perform successfully. Students are encouraged

to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at:
https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/

Zoom Etiquette, Screen Fatigue, and Rest

Please come to class on time as I cover important updates during the first 10-15 minutes of class, as well as the agenda for that week's lessons. Students should be situated in a quiet area with minimal amount of activity in the background. For additional privacy, students are encouraged to use a virtual background in Zoom. Upon entering the chat, students should set their microphones to mute and unmute when they would like to contribute to the conversation. The best way for a student to "raise a hand" is to indicate this in the chat. Please refrain from eating during Zoom meetings. If students need to step away from the computer during a live Zoom meeting, they should mute their video and audio feeds.

Much of this semester will take place in front of a screen. It is important that students set their screens at medium brightness and sit in comfortable chairs with adequate lower back support. It is also very important for students to make sure that they step away from the computer once every hour, even if only for a few minutes, to grab a snack, a glass of water, or to touch base with a friend or loved one.

Finally, it is important that students rest. If students do not take the time to rest, they cannot fully engage with the material in a meaningful way. That said, all students should have designated times during the day to take a break. They should also have a routine of regular sleeping hours, as well as restricting use of portable electronics such as cellphones and laptops several hours before bedtime. For more resources on how to cultivate a better work-life balance as a student, please contact the Kelly Center at FHSU.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of courtesy, students should mute cell phones and other devices prior to the beginning of class. If students are using their phone for any reason (which includes text messaging, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, etc.), I will give that student one (1) warning after which time I will count every instance of use as a late to class / early departure. That being said, three (3) instances of in-class engagement with non-related devices or applications (or any combination of the two) will result in one (1) absence.

Further, students may not make images, screen captures, videos, or any other kind of recording of any individual during live class meetings with that party's expressed verbal consent, written consent, or knowledge. Please remember that it is a violation of privacy to post images online of someone without their consent and without their knowledge.

ADA

FHSU is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal, state and local laws prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities. Under the ADA, "disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity of an individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. A substantial impairment is one that significantly limits or restricts a major life activity such as hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, walking, or caring for oneself. For information pertaining to services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities, contact the Human Resource Office, Sheridan Hall Room 110, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601, (785) 628-4462.

Students can also visit the following page for more information:

<https://fhsu.edu/president/Compliance-Office/Americans-with-Disabilities-Act/index.html>

Harassment

It is expected that all students enrolled in the course will abide by the terms and conditions of student conduct and academic honesty as cited in the FHSU campus-wide policy. FHSU is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty, administrative, and academic staff can learn and work together in an atmosphere that enhances productivity and draws on the diversity of its members; an atmosphere free from all forms of disrespectful conduct, harassment, exploitation or intimidation, including sexual. No form of harassment will be tolerated in this class.

Title IX

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, FHSU faculty are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence made to a faculty member must be reported to one of the University's Title IX Officers. Please visit the following page for more information:

<https://fhsu.edu/president/Compliance-Office/Title-IX-Policy/index.html>

Student Support Services:

- FHSU Computing and Telecommunications Center Help Desk
<http://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Forsyth Library
<http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center
<https://www.fhsu.edu/WritingCenter/>