

# Art 2674 - Introduction to Photography

Syllabus Date: Fall 2013 - VI

**Instructor:** Assistant Professor Stephen Chalmers  
**Meeting Time:** MW 1-3:50 PM (Chalmers)  
**Office Hours:** MW 11-1, H 10-11  
(*must sign up on calendar on office door*)  
**E-Mail:** SChalmers@ysu.edu\*  
**Office Phone:** 330.941.3776 (e-mail is a quicker mode)  
**Class Website:** <http://people.ysu.edu/~schalmers/>  
\* **Note:** Only e-mail from your YSU account will be responded to.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** From the catalog, "An introduction to black and white photographic image capture emphasizing visual literacy, creative possibilities and critical awareness of the medium as an art form. Course content focuses on manual DSLR camera operation, composition and basic computer editing. Prereq.: ART 1503 and passing the foundation portfolio review, or permission of instructor."

This primarily screen-based course introduces the basic visual grammar and critical-thinking skills of photography. Using a digital camera with manual controls and RAW capture, students will learn the craft of making photographs while also being introduced to issues of aesthetic form, historical context and the content or meaning of photographs. Students will learn to question, explore, communicate and evaluate basic photographic concepts that are applicable to many disciplines.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** At the successful completion of this course, students will be proficient in each of the following four areas.

**CRAFT (The materials and processes used to make a photograph):**

Students will be able to:

- Control how light works to make a photograph.
- Develop competence with manual camera functions, controls and light meter and their relationship to exposure, depth of field and motion.
- Understand RAW format and digital photographic RAW workflow with an emphasis on the processing, archiving and presentation of RAW digital images.

**FORM (The visual elements or properties of a photograph that create order and express meaning, including: light, value, color, composition, focus, depth of field, vantage point, and time):**

Students will be able to:

- Recognize, control and implement the visual grammar and formal elements of photography such as light, form, composition, and tonality.

**CONTENT (The meaning of a photograph expressed through craftsmanship, formal control and selection of subject matter):**

Students will be able to:

- Recognize, control and implement photography as a means of self-expression in a deliberate and innovative way.
- Interpret photographs based on a variety of factors such as form, context, subject matter and intention
- Discuss your own photographs and actively participate in discussions of your peers' photographs in a critique setting.

**CONTEXT (The social and historical conditions in which a photograph is interpreted):**

Students will be able to:

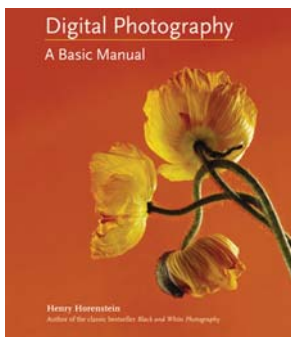
- Recognize that changing social and historical conditions may result in different meanings for the same photograph.
- Recognize the overlapping but different contexts of vernacular, commercial, photojournalistic, and fine art photography.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Throughout the term, you will be expected to have the readings and assignments completed weekly, review the content on the class website weekly, and to check your YSU e-mail daily. You will be expected to create approximately 120 images per week, photographing whatever you wish, but at least loosely based on the themes assigned in class. After we cover image editing, you will be expected to have approximately 10-20 quality processed images each week (from the mentioned 120 images /week). Please bring your camera, and files to critique, so that we can view them in case of a technical problem or concern. At the end of the semester you will be expected to have a portfolio book consisting of ~55 pages, with 25-30(+) images, and with ~15-20(+) of those from your final project.

*\* All images completed in this class will be submitted at the end of the semester.*

*Do not delete or throw any files or materials away until the end of the term!*

*\*\* Late work will not be accepted.*



**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** The required textbook for this course is *Digital Photography: A Basic Manual* by Henry Horenstein, Allison Carroll. Little, Brown and Company; 1st edition (November 2, 2011) ISBN-10: 0316020745. \$18.74 at Amazon, ~\$30 at YSU Bookstore.

**EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES:** Like most other classes, you should get a notebook and a three ring binder. Your final portfolio (due at the end of the course) will be printed as a ~55 page book -- which will cost approximately \$55.

You need to have a digital camera with a resolution of at least 10MP, that has adjustable f-stops and shutter speeds and that can also create RAW files (not just JPGs). YM Camera in Boardman will have a Fuji F77EXR point and shoot (for approx \$360) and in terms of DSLRs, they will stock both the Nikon D3100 and also the Canon Rebel T3i (for about \$500/ea). If you plan on taking other photography courses or wish to have a better quality camera, I would recommend a DSLR (either the ones listed above, or higher end).



Some camera suggestions for photo majors might include: Canon EOS 60D or 70D, Canon EOS 7D, Nikon D7000, Nikon D90, Nikon D3100, Canon EOS 5D (Mark II or III), Nikon D300S, Nikon D600 or D800 (or newer versions of these models).

Some camera suggestions for non-majors might include: Canon EOS XTi/400D and above, Nikon D40 and above. Recommended compact cameras include the Canon Powershot G12, Canon Powershot S100, Nikon Coolpix P7100, Sony NEX-5N, Olympus PEN E-P3, Panasonic Lumix G-series, Panasonic Lumix DMX-LX5 (or newer versions of these models).

**TUTORING ASSISTANCE:** "The Marion G. Resch Center for Student Progress is a resource on Campus established to help students successfully complete their university experience. Please phone (330) 941-3538 or visit the Center for assistance in tutoring or for individualized assistance with social and academic success. The main Center is located in Kilcawley West below the bookstore. CSP Disability Services is located at 275 Fifth Ave."

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** "In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located at 275 Fifth Avenue, and provide a letter of accommodation to verify your eligibility. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372."

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** The theft of intellectual property is taken very seriously in this class. All student work must be original and made solely for this course. Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism (defined as submitting work that was previously created by you but not expressly for this course) will be dealt with in the strictest manner according to the university policies outlined in the Bulletin.

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** This class is pretty dense, as we will be cramming a rather complex topic into 16 weeks. Due to the fast pace of the course and how new material builds upon previously learned material, attendance is mandatory. As such, more than three absences (excused or unexcused) will affect your grade - each additional absence will subtract ten percentage points (a full letter) off of your final grade. Additionally, every two times that you are tardy or leave early will count as an absence. The lab days are for you to work on assignments related to THIS class. If you do not have anything to work on during these times, it is equivalent to saying "Mark me absent today." Finally, if you are absent on the final scheduled day you will fail.

It is not enough to merely be present in class - you must be an active participant in discussions, and assigned readings must be done before class. Following this, other activities that will not be tolerated include texting, checking e-mail, social networking, homework for other classes, etc, while class is in session. In short, don't work on any item not related to this course during the class period.

If you know you are going to have an excused late or absence on a specific date, please let me know the week before (at the very least). Demos and lectures will not be repeated, therefore if you miss a class it is your responsibility to find out from your peers what was covered. University closings due to weather or other emergencies are announced on WYSU, 85.5 FM.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING:** The grading criteria and rubric used for each assignment can be found at the bottom of each handout (which in turn can be found on the class website). To determine your percentage, simply divide your earned points by the points possible. Grading is in line with the YSU Catalog, as follows:

- » "A represents exceptional work in which the student shows that he or she has firmly grasped and achieved the objectives of the course" (90-100% = *exceptional*).
- » "B indicates very good work and considerable grasp of the essentials of the course" (80-89.9% = *superior/above average*).
- » "C indicates good work and a usable grasp of the essentials of the course" (70-79.9% = *average*).
- » "D indicates a definite, but not necessarily coherent, knowledge of the course" (60-69.9% = *below average*).
- » "F indicates student has not achieved even a minimum grasp of the essentials of the course or failure to withdraw officially from the course" (0-59.9% = *failure*).

Project grades will be distributed approximately a week after the assignment is collected and your grade will typically be determined from points in the following categories (if not expressly listed on the assignment handout):

1. Assignment completed according to instructions listed for the assignment.
2. Attention to craft and development of technical ability.
3. Ability to understand and apply concepts presented in class.
4. Appropriateness of quantity of work.
5. Effort and motivation invested in project.
6. Willingness to explore and take risks.
7. Overall effectiveness, success and quality of project both visually and conceptually.

*Extra effort will help your grade!*

**OTHER:** The assignments on the schedule are in addition to in class work. Due to unforeseen issues, and in order to accommodate everyone's questions and problem areas, the class schedule should be considered flexible. Please bring any concerns relating to matters such as expectations, deadlines and meeting times to my attention so that clarifications or adjustments can be made. If we must vary significantly from this schedule you will be given a supplemental calendar and revised list of assignments.

You are required to assist in the maintenance of the facility. You must clean up after yourself -- this is not the lab assistants' job. Every piece of equipment provided for you to use must be treated as if it were your own. Any rough handling of this equipment will not be tolerated. You are sharing the facility with many other students - the more friendly and conscientious you are will make the lab that much more pleasant and efficient. Your use of the facility must not disadvantage or interfere with any other student enrolled in a photo course.

Please note that some of the photographs we might look at during this course may include nudity, be graphically violent or be politically provocative. Some individuals may find these images disturbing or even offensive. Such works are included because they presented important challenges to artistic traditions and conventions, to social mores, to standards of beauty and taste, and ultimately, to the definition and history of photography itself. Students will not be required to subscribe to any particular theory of the purpose and meaning of photography, nor will they be required to like all of the images shown. However, if you choose to take this course, you will be expected to understand the issues involved and why they are important. If you have any special concerns, please discuss them with your instructor at the end of the first day of class.

**FINALLY:** If you apply yourself, work hard, develop your skills and exhibit individual growth you will do well in this class. We are here to help you succeed -- so do not be afraid to ask questions. Have fun, keep positive and be creative!

**CLASSMATE CONTACTS (OPTIONAL):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have questions about anything on this syllabus or in this class, PLEASE ask!*

*Notes:*

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