



ART 215: Photography: Portfolio of Perugia

Course Syllabus 2023 Summer Session I

Instructor: Philippa Stannard, MFA ATR **Credits:** 3

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: none

Class Meeting Days & Time: Mondays and Wednesdays

9:15am-12:45pm

Office Hours: 9:00-9:15 and 12:45-1:15pm Mondays and Wednesdays

Course Type: standard course

Course Fee: USD\$15

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of photography. No previous photographic experience is required. The focus will be to capture and record the students' experience in Italy through weekly photo walks around Perugia, an ancient Umbrian hilltop town, as well as to create a portfolio of these images. The class will explore the cultural phenomenon of photography and the role it plays in society. Students will learn basic concepts, processes, and techniques, including camera usage; exposure controls; manipulating and printing digital photographic images; and print presentation. At the end of the semester, all the photographs will be displayed at the Umbra Art Show.

"The question is not how to take a good picture, but how not to miss one." - Harold Feinstein

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

Below are the course's learning outcomes, followed by the methods that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- *Demonstrate* a thorough and functional knowledge of the essential mechanisms of a camera. (Quiz, Assignments, Critiques)
- *Create* photographs with interesting and effective compositions, lighting, and points of view. (Critiques and Assignments)
- *Apply* appropriate edits to digital images. (Assignments)
- *Understand* the visual language of photography, and how it can be used to express and communicate ideas. (Quiz, Community Engagement activities, Written and Oral Report)

Course Materials

Textbook: Joel Meyerowitz, *Seeing Things* (New York: Aperture, 2016).

Assessment

Attendance	10%
Photographic assignments (3 x 75% each)	75%
Quizzes	10%
Class participation	5%

Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A A-	93% - 100% 90% - 92%	Exceptional Excellent
B+ B B-	87% - 89% 83% - 86% 80% - 82%	Superior
C+ C C-	77% - 79% 73% - 76% 70% - 72%	Satisfactory
D+ D D-	67% - 69% 63% - 66% 60% - 62%	Low Pass
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Please note: decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

Course Requirements

Grades are based on the following criteria.

Photographic Assignments (3 x 25% each = 75%)

Students will have three photographic assignments due during the semester. Each assignment will consist of taking at least 300 photographs, from which they will choose the best six images and then edit and optimize them. The photographs for each assignment should be renamed in the following format:

LastnameFirstname1.jpg , LastnameFirstname2.jpg etc. As there are six photographs due for each assignment, you should upload 6 photographs to the appropriate folder on Google Drive. Please do not put your

photographs in a folder.

Assignment 1: Composition, Lighting, Viewpoint – Six edited and optimized photographs.

– There are a lot of things to think about when taking a photograph. This first assignment is your chance to put into practice all we've learned about your camera focus on what makes photographs memorable. Please pay special attention to composition, lighting, and point of view in order to draw the viewer into the scene. The subject matter is open.

Assignment 2: Subject matter is open

– Six edited and optimized photographs.

Assignment 3: *"My Study Abroad Experience"*

– Six edited and optimized photographs

– We will create a series of photographs that capture and record your own unique and personal experience and reality while studying abroad. What are the things that make it special that you will miss? Capture them with your camera! These photographs can be a wonderful way to record Perugia and all the special places and people you have met here on your study abroad journey. Friends and human interaction bring any story alive.

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is an important part of this course. You have two "sick days," per Institute policy. As long as you are at all the other meetings, you will receive the full 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

Quizzes (10%)

Students will be assigned two short quizzes every week. The quiz will be on Moodle and it is not timed. Students can take the quiz as many times as they like, with the recorded grade being an average of all attempts on each quiz. There will be a combination of *technical*, *methodological*, and *content questions*. The content questions will help students zoom in on the most important ideas of the readings. The technical questions will help students learn the class' policies and administrative procedures. The methodological questions will test on skills that will pop up every week, like finding an author's argument and assessing sources.

Class Participation (5%)

Class participation refers to active participation during critiques, discussion or readings, photowalks, and any other activity during class time. See Moodle for further details.

Attendance & Lateness Policy

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. All students are allowed 1 "sick day" (i.e. unexcused absence), which does not need to be justified. It is the student's responsibility to keep it in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class.

More than 1 absence will affect your final grade by 4% per absence. Excessive unexcused absences (4 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. Three late arrivals to or early departures from class will count as an unexcused absence. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students' final

grade in that course by 4% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided. Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Academic Integrity

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be turned off before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.

Laptop/Smartphone Policy

An ever-increasing body of research shows that open laptops and telephones in the classroom create distraction (both visual and auditory) for those using them and those around them. You can type faster than you can write, and as a result you end up processing less when you're simply typing notes. For this reason, students are asked to keep computers and phones away and use a regular notebook. There are three exceptions: 1) if you have an accommodation; 2) if you make an office hours appointment with me to discuss the use of a computer; 3) if we have an in-class tutorial about online research tools.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

What Makes a “Good” Photograph? Aperture and Shutter

Meeting 1: *Introduction to your Photo Taking Device, Presentation and Discussion of Images.*

Meeting 2: *How Do Cameras Work? Aperture, Shutter, and ISO.*

Photowalk: using Aperture, Shutter and ISO on your camera

Readings for the week:

Meyerowitz, Joel, 2016 *Seeing Things Aperture*, New York pp.1-26 Meyerowitz, Joel, 2016 *Seeing Things Aperture*, New York pp.27-47

WEEK 2

ISO, Focal length, and lens distortion

Meeting 1 *Focal Length and Reality*

Photowalk

Meeting 2: *Identifying and Editing Your Best Images*

Readings for the week:

Meyerowitz, Joel, 2016 *Seeing Things Aperture*, New York pp. 48-66

WEEK 3

Assignment 1 Due, Working on Assignment 2

Meeting 1: *Critique and Grading*

Meeting 2: *Better Editing, Working on Assignment 2*

WEEK 4

Assignment 2 Due, Working on Assignment 3

Meeting 1: *Critique and Grading*

Meeting 2: *Better Editing, Choosing which photographs to print*

WEEK 5

Assignment 3 Due, Printing

Meeting 1: *Critique and Grading*

Meeting 2: *Printing and Art Show*