



ART 215 Photography

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2023

Instructor: Philippa Stannard, MFA ATR

Credits: 3

Contact Hours: 45

Prerequisites: none

Class Meeting Days & Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:45am-12:15pm

Office Hours: by appointment after a class

Course Type: Course with Service Learning component

Course Fee: USD\$30

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

Readings

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

Assessment

Attendance	10%
Photographic assignments (4 x 15% each)	60%
Quizzes	10%
Class participation	5%
Oral reports and presentations	5%
Written reports	5%
Community Engagement Presentation	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	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
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 (4 x 15% each = 60%)

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: Service learning project

- Six edited and optimized photographs.
- You will help the social cooperative promote their innovative, MADE IN ITALY creations as well as their philosophy of inclusion for online and print material by photographing their newest products using the city of Perugia as a creative backdrop. Things to keep in mind: composition, point of view, motion, depth of field, and exposure compensation...and *LIGHTING!* Pay special attention to the background and how it can infer meaning and interest into the product that you are photographing. Please see *Moodle* for more information.

Assignment 4: "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, each of which will be due before class time and will not be reopened. 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 the highest grade they receive. 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.

Oral Reports and Presentation (5%)

Everyone will research a photographer and give an *oral and written report* on their chosen photographer. Make sure the photographer that you choose has enough information available to write a six-page paper. *The paper and oral report are both due on the day that you sign up to give your presentation. You must upload both your paper and your presentation to the appropriate Google Drive folder, with sharing permissions set to enable you to present them from my Google Account (otherwise you have to sign into your account and it is a waste of class time).* If you decide to change your mind on the photographer that you have chosen, first check our Moodle page to ensure nobody else has chosen your photographer, then inform me at the beginning of the next class so that I may then change your photographer on Moodle. Please do not email me asking me to do this outside of class time.

The *oral report* will be given as a PowerPoint, Keynote, or other type of visual presentation in which you explain the life and work of your photographer, what you think about their work, and show 20 examples of their work. The images should be of a higher resolution, as they will be enlarged on the TV monitor. (Google→ Image search→ tools→ image size→large). In addition, please place only one photo per slide as large as possible, as we will be viewing them on the TV monitor. If you place more than one photograph per slide, they are too small to see properly. Please talk about your photographer's life, artistic style, compositional techniques, etc. We are interested in your creative analysis and interpretation. The oral report should last about 15-20 minutes. Please choose a photographer that you can find enough information about, otherwise you will have a hard time writing a six page paper on them.

Be prepared to give your oral presentation at the beginning of class. Your presentation should be uploaded to the appropriate Google Drive folder.

Written Reports (5%)

Everyone will research a photographer and give an *oral and written report* on their chosen photographer. The written paper on your chosen photographer should 1500-2000 words, double spaced. *I am interested to know what YOU think about their work.* Tell me why you chose them and describe their photographic career. I do not want to read a paper that is half quotes. Limit the number of quotes to no more than three. How did they get into photography? What contributions did they make to the world of photography? What genre of photography do they practice? What is unique about their images? Is there a subject or theme that ties their work together? I am interested in your creative analysis and interpretation. Try to summarize their photographic style. The bibliography should include at least five sources. Your paper should be a Google Document and uploaded to the appropriate Google Drive folder on the day that you give your presentation.

End of Semester Community Engagement Presentations (5%)

During Special Academic Events Week, the class will present a 15-minute summary of the project experience to the Umbra community during the Community Engagement Presentations on **Tuesday, April 25th**. Students will receive the guidelines and presentation order after the mid-semester break.

All the presentations will have the same structure:

1. Present the partner
2. Present the project
3. Takeaways&challenges
4. A meaningful activity in line with the course topics (optional, it doesn't have to take more than five minutes)

Participation in this event is MANDATORY and an integral part of the community engagement grade.

Attendance & Lateness Policy

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. All students are allowed 2 "sick days" (i.e. unexcused absences), which do not need to be justified. It is the student's responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class. More than 2 absences will affect your final grade by 2% per absence. Excessive unexcused absences (8 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 *Log into social media accounts. Password information is on Moodle.*

Bring camera to next class

Meeting 2: *How do cameras work?*

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 *Using your camera: How does it work?*

Meeting 2: *Focal length and reality*

Readings for the week:

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

WEEK 3

Photo reports and photo walk.

Meeting 1 *Photo Walk*

Meeting 2: *Student Reports*

WEEK 4

Identifying and Editing Your Best Images

Meeting 1 *Histograms and choosing best images*

Meeting 2: *Basic Editing*

WEEK 5

Assignment 1 Due

Meeting 1 *Critique and Grading*

Meeting 2: *Photographer Reports*

WEEK 6

Photo Walk and Photographer Reports

Meeting 1 *Photo Walk*

Meeting 2: *Photographer Reports*

Semester Break

WEEK 7

Better Editing, Assignment 2 Due

Meeting 1 *Better Editing Assignment 2 Photographs*

Meeting 2: *Assignment 2 Due*

WEEK 8

Re.Leg.Art Service Learning

Meeting 1 *Marketing and Photography*

Meeting 2: *Photo Walk with products*

Readings for the week:

[readings]

WEEK 9

Editing, Assignment 3 Due

Meeting 1 *Better Editing*

Meeting 2: *Assignment 3 Due*

Readings for the week:

[readings]

WEEK 10

Photowalk, Editing, Community Engagement

Meeting 1 *Discussion of Assignment 4. Photowalk*

Meeting 2: *Better Editing, Discussion of CE events during last week*

Readings for the week:

[readings]

WEEK 11

Photographer Reports, Assignment 4 Due

Meeting 1 *Photographer Reports*

Meeting 2: *Assignment 4 Due*

Readings for the week:

[readings]

WEEK 12

Printing and Community Engagement Activity Preparation

Meeting 1 *Printing*

Meeting 2: *Community Engagement Activity Preparation, Printing*

Readings for the week:

[readings]

WEEK 13

Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week

TBA

ART 215: Photography: Portfolio of Perugia
Service Learning Project
Syllabus Appendix
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What is service learning?

Service learning is a type of experiential education integrated into a course in which:

- students engage in an organized activity or project aimed to address a community need that is identified in collaboration with the community partner;
- students critically reflect on the link between the experience in the community, course content, and the learning goals; and
- there is reciprocal learning both by the students and by the community partners.

You will need a certain degree of flexibility, creativity, and self-initiative to realize a service learning project. Organization and open communication in-class with me and your team members will be key to your success.

Service Learning Project Overview

Community Partner

RE.LEG.ART is a small social co-operative in Perugia that trains workers with special needs as well as refugees to make handmade leather goods and hand-bound books.

Website: www.relegart.it

Project Description and Goals

You will help the company promote their innovative, MADE IN ITALY creations as well as their philosophy of inclusion for online and print material by photographing their newest products using the city of Perugia as a creative backdrop. Students will be assigned to one of these two groups.

Organization, Expectations, and Roles

For ASSIGNMENT 3, you will photograph either a handmade RE.LEG.ART product that will be lent* to you for one week or the workers in action. This will enable you to photograph the items in various places and at different times of the day (lighting). For those assigned to photographing RE.LEG.ART workers, students will be responsible for arranging the appointments directly with Silvia Romaniello, President of RE.LEG.ART.

*Any lost or damaged goods must be purchased by you, so please take care of them while they are in your possession.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through this project, you will:

- develop awareness and skills in intercultural communication;
- gain a better understanding of the host culture and community;

- gain insight into the creation, use, and presentation of photographic images;
- discover the importance of engaging photographs when marketing a product; and
- improve critical thinking by understanding and meeting the needs of a company.

In-Class Presentation for Community Partner

Photographs will be presented to Silvia Romaniello, President of RE.LEG.ART. You will explain your ideas, goals, and inspiration for the photographs you chose during the class critique and grading.

Community Engagement Final Presentation

During Special Academic Events Week, the class will present a 15-minute summary of the project experience to the Umbra community during the Community Engagement Presentations on **Tuesday, April 25th**. Students will receive the guidelines and presentation order after the mid-semester break.

Grading Rubric

The service learning project is worth a total of 21% of the final course grade.

- Photographs from third assignment 18%
- Community Engagement Presentation 3%