

ART 1100.03

Introduction to Digital Photography

Fall 2020
Online & Hybrid
Access

6:20p – 9:25p
Tues & Thurs

(3 credit hours)



Gil Blank, Pier Family, 2008

Instructor

Armon Means

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Online Access

Blackboard will be used for project details, supplemental information and uploading assignment files. Zoom will be used for online class meetings.

Additional Online Resources

LinkedInLearning.com

Supplies/Web Tools

- **SUBSCRIPTION TO ADOBE CREATIVE CLOUD IS REQUIRED**
- Camera: Digital DSLR or Mirrorless with manual controls
- CF, SD, or compatible digital storage
- External Portable Hard Drive (250 GB or larger)
- External camera mounted flash (we will discuss options in class)
- Tripod (optional)
- Lens cleaning tissue and liquid (optional)

Overview (*Course Description & Objectives*):

This is a beginning level class, starting at and expanding on the basics of DSLR color exposure, processing in Camera RAW, Bridge and Photoshop as well as the basics of using the scanner as a means of photographic capture. This class will cover the basics of photographic color theory, composition fundamentals in photography, and the applications of color in photography. There will be a strong emphasis on developing the ability to communicate ideas effectively through the photographic medium as well as the ability to talk about photographic works analytically, formally and conceptually. Concentration is on photography as a fine art medium. Students must have a 35 mm DSLR camera with manual controls. No pre-requisites.

Throughout the semester, we will focus on the evolution of color and digital photography, and begin to learn where your photographic interests lie within the legacy of image-makers that came before you and are working presently.

Assignments will be given with a focus on photography as a form of visual communication. They will allow you the chance to hone your creative and technical skills and explore personal expression. Remember! This is an art class, and the artist always has something to communicate. We hope to move beyond simply recording what is in front of the camera. This class will be a safe place to take risks and explore new ideas in hopes of defining your own style and visual language. Critiques will allow you to process each others work as a community. The successful result will be enriching not only to you as photographers, but also as astute viewers, critical thinkers, and articulate speakers.



Photography Equipment Suppliers

ONLINE:

- www.bhphotovideo.com - New York
- www.freestylephoto.biz - Los Angeles
- www.keh.com - ATL (Great for used equipment)

Due to the unfortunate closing of Dury's, our local photographic equipment and supply retailer, the best option for purchasing equipment is online. You can find many retailers beyond those listed above and may find equipment at a local vendor such as Best Buy, Electronic Express, etc.

Please feel free to consult me with any questions about purchases before you make them or for suggestions. I'm glad to help!

ATTENDANCE & PROGRESS :

Attendance is mandatory. You should come to class prepared to work. Bring all materials necessary for that class period. Quizzes may be given at unannounced times covering material discussed in class.

Belmont University is committed to the idea that regular class attendance is essential to successful scholastic achievement. Your presence and participation in discussions are vital to the class. Punctual attendance is mandatory and you are considered tardy immediately after the lecture or class has begun.

The Department of Art attendance policy is as followed:

- You are allowed three (3) absences per course. Additional absences beyond this will result in a drop in your final grade by one full letter grade.
- After six (6) absences, you will receive an FN (failure for non-attendance) for the course.
- An excused absence can only come from the Office of the Provost or Student Support & Disability Services (SSDS). A doctor's note does not make an absence excused.
- Tardiness, early departure or other excessive time away from class is considered 1/3 of an absence, thus three (3) lates/early departures will thus result in one (1) absence.

Belmont's full attendance policy can be found online at: belmont.edu/registrar/apolicies/attendance.html

Course Requirements:

Time! This class is a significant time commitment outside of class. Class participation is mandatory during lab workdays and critique days— attendance is crucial! This is a studio class, and getting the credit you need means spending time in the studio. Plan on working outside of class shooting and printing 5 – 10 hours per week. You are also expected to keep up with various assigned readings and be ready to discuss them in class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION & CRITIQUES :

Be prepared to participate in thoughtful discussion during critiques and class meetings. Participation includes being ready to work during class. For example, on a workday, if you have no film to process or prints to make, you will receive a zero for the day.

It is vital to participate in all critiques; therefore missing a critique will result in a full grade reduction for that assignment. Your participation grade will reflect the level of effort and time you commit to the work you do and your participation as a student who is actively trying to learn. Also remember to maintain a positive and respectful attitude towards your instructor as well as your fellow students. This is professional preparation that will help you learn the skills to work as a team player, provide useful feedback to your peers, show up alert and ready to work and engage during lectures, critiques, etc. You will be asked to evaluate your participation at the end of each critique and this will be a part of your grade for each critique.

PROJECTS:

Grading Criteria

The criteria by which you will be graded for each assignment will be presented with each project's introduction. They will be designed to push your technical skills to a conceptual level. You will also have selected reading assignments that you must be ready to discuss in class.

Late Assignments will be deducted one letter grade for every day that they are late. Always turn in what you have, even if it did not turn out the way you had envisioned, or at all. Always keep mistakes so we can look at them and figure out what went wrong.

Assignments

Each student will sign up for a day to give an 10-15 minute Presentation on an artist using Color Photography. This will allow us to explore a wide range of historic and contemporary artists throughout the semester and both inspire and expand your visual literacy.

Each student will be required to keep a journal throughout the semester. Prompts will be assigned to inspire weekly entries in the journal. All entries must be submitted to the instructor promptly: no late entries will be accepted. Each entry should be approximate one page typed.

The Final Project is your chance to respond to what you have learned technically and conceptually throughout the semester. I will ask you to make a body of work which functions as a series or sequence of images based on a subject matter of your own personal interest. A written (typed) proposal must be submitted prior to beginning the project. The process of making your work is important for the final project, and you should put several weeks of work into it. If you shoot your final project a week before it is due, you can expect a maximum grade of a C.

Grading

CLASS GRADES

Shooting Projects 1 -3.....	30%
Mini Project.....	10%
Research Presentation.....	10%
Journals.....	10%
Midterm Exam.....	10%
Final & Artist Statement.....	30%

Your grade will be based upon effort shown in and out of class, quality of work formally, visually, and conceptually, technical proficiency, and class participation (both in class discussion and critiques, as well as productivity during work days).

Appointments may be made to discuss grades and standing in the class.

Grading Scale

A+	97 - 100	
A	93 - 96	
A-	90 - 92	A = Superior Work
B+	87 - 89	
B	83 - 86	
B-	80 - 82	B = Above Average Work
C+	77 - 79	
C	73 - 76	
C-	70 - 72	C = Average Work
D+	67 - 69	
D	63 - 66	D = Below Average Work
D-	60 - 62	
F	00 - 59	F = Failing Work



Accommodations & Safety:

If you have any special physical problem or learning disability let me know now so the class environment can be adjusted or I can be prepared for emergencies.*

*In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Belmont University will provide reasonable accommodation of all medically documented disabilities. If you have a disability and would like the university to provide reasonable accommodations of the disability during this course, please notify the Office of the Dean of Students located in Beaman Student Life Center (460-6407) as soon as possible.

In an effort to maintain a safe academic and working environment, the Department of Art will endeavor to comply with the intent of state laws or acts and the University Health and Safety Program.

There will be time devoted in this class to the safe use of common Graphic Design materials. It is your responsibility to read and understand the safe use of any art materials you purchase. This information is being updated every year as more data is compiled part of your professional responsibility for your own safety and the safety of those you work around is to keep current with developments in this area.

Honor Code:

All students are expected to abide by the standards of Belmont's Honor System and will be held accountable to the terms of the Honor Pledge:

I will not give or receive aid during examinations; I will not give or receive false or impermissible aid in coursework, in the preparations of my reports, or in any other type of work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of my grade; I will not engage in any form of academic fraud. Furthermore, I will uphold my responsibility to see to it that others abide by the spirit and letter of this Honor Pledge.

Inclusion, Diversity, & Equality Statement:

The Watkins College of Art embraces a notion of intellectual community enriched and enhanced by inclusion, diversity, and equality along a number of dimensions including but not limited to: ethnicity, race, culture, nationality, gender, gender identity, sexuality, class, socioeconomic status, age, disability, and religion. We are especially committed to increasing the representation of those populations that have been historically excluded from participating in U.S. higher education and strive to include a variety of artists, art historical perspectives, and contemporary art concerns in all courses. Belmont University adheres to the philosophy that all community members have a right to enjoy an environment free of any form of harassment, sexual misconduct, decimation, and/or violence. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated in regards to improving the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students. Given the sensitive and challenging nature of the material discussed in the course, it is imperative that there be an atmosphere of trust and safety in the classroom. If material may be of sensitive nature or could possibly merit a content warning, we will do our best to provide such a warning. If there is an issue concerning a sensitive topic discussed, please meet with the professor after class to address the concern. It is important to hear and respect every member of our community of learners. If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those in the official records, please inform us. Students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives will be well-served by this course and our diversity of learners is viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit to all.

Note:

Don't forget to have the names and phone numbers of at least 2 other people in class. Any lecture material, information, demonstrations, etc. will be given at the beginning of class and will not normally be printed out, I cannot repeat assignments for individuals since they may take as much as an hour to discuss verbally- hence the "buddy system" with notes. Missing class time does not constitute a good reason for being ignorant of what may have taken place or what may have been required.



Teacher Evaluations:

It is highly recommended that you complete the end of the term evaluations for every class. These evaluations will become available to you toward the end of the semester through myBelmont. These evaluations are extremely important for the instructor as well as the department.

Facebook/Social Media:

Facebook (or any other social media service) should not be used during class. Additionally, Facebook messages DO NOT count as a means of class communication with the instructor.

Cellphones:

Cellphones should never be used in class. The use of a cellphone (including, but not limited to calling, texting and/or games) during while the instructor, a student or guest is speaking is unacceptable and can result in being marked as absent for the day. The use of a cellphone during a critique will automatically drop you a letter grade on your project after a first warning.

Dates & Class Topics: **UNTIL SEPT 7, CLASSES WILL MEET REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

Aug.20	First Day of Class – Read over syllabus / supply list. Explain class assignments and projects. STUDENTS SHOULD GET CAMERAS FOR NEXT CLASS!
Aug.25	Introduce Project 1: The Color Project Project 1: Discuss cameras and shooting / film vs digital / camera controls
Aug.27	Shoot for assignment / Weekly journal entry #1
Sep.01	Intro color theory, Color of Light, Color Harmony, White Balance - READ: Tim Davis essays Demo: Camera raw, Basic processing and image adjustments, making a digital contact sheet
Sep.03	Discuss reading / Weekly journal entry #2 – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Sep.08	Project 1 Due – The assignment is due at the beginning of the class period, there will be no time in class to work on the assignment. Class discussion and critique. Introduce Project 2: Color of Light
Sep.10	Introductory demo: Color balancing with curve layer, selective color Weekly journal entry #3
Sep.15	Demo: Hue/Saturation Tools – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Sep.17	Project 2 Due – The assignment is due at the beginning of the class period, there will be no time in class to work on the assignment. Class discussion and critique. Introduce Project 3: Lighting (Mini - Project) Weekly journal entry #4
Sep.22	Demo: Professional Lighting Kit, Improvised solutions – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Sep.24	Weekly journal entry #5 – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Sep.29	Project 3 Due – The assignment is due at the beginning of the class period, there will be no time in class to work on the assignment. Class discussion and critique. Introduce Midterm
Oct.01	Review for midterm Weekly journal entry #6
Oct.06	MIDTERM EXAM Introduce Project 4: Constructed in Photoshop
Oct.08	Student Presentations 5 & 6 Assignment discussion and demo Weekly journal entry #7
Oct.13	Demo: Montaging in photoshop and advanced retouching – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Oct.15	Weekly journal entry #8 – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Oct.20	Project 4 Due – The assignment is due at the beginning of the class period, there will be no time in class to work on the assignment. Class discussion and critique.
Oct.22	Introduce Final Project & Research paper/presentation
Oct.27	Research Day (No class meeting) – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Oct.29	Project discussion - artist samples and/or video - Discuss Artist Statement (required for final) – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Nov.03	Proposals for Final Project Due: Individual Meetings (Submit images to Blackboard) – Work day / Individual progress critiques
Nov.05	Student Presentations – Work day / Individual progress critiques

Discussions will be held at the beginning of every class session. Please make sure to be on time and to check with another student if you miss a day of class.



Dates & Class Topics: **UNTIL SEPT 7, CLASSES WILL MEET REMOTELY VIA ZOOM**

Nov.10	Student Presentations continued if necessary — Work day / Individual progress critiques
Nov.12	LAST DAY OF CLASS — Work day / Individual progress critiques
Nov.16	7PM (MONDAY): Final Exam – Final Project & Artist Statements Due Must be finished <u>before the beginning of the class</u> for the final critique.

Link to the exam schedule for the students:

<http://www.belmont.edu/registrar/exam-schedules.html>

Zoom Etiquette:

Zoom is an excellent tool that will help us connect during the unprecedented times. It is also being adopted more and more by professional fields, and will likely remain in our professional work place culture, long after COVID19 is no longer a concern. Learning appropriate Zoom etiquette is therefore not just important for the success of this class and this semester but will also be good preparation for your professional, post Belmont careers where working and meeting remotely will likely be more of a regular way of life. Zoom will often times be where we have discussions, lectures, critiques, one on one meetings, etc. Those are important learning spaces, they are “brave spaces” where students will still be asked to freely share ideas, be vulnerable, and be articulate and professional, so our use of Zoom must allow for us to maintain that brave space and establish a strong and healthy community, even when we are meeting remotely.

With this in mind, here are the Zoom etiquette policies for this class:

When on Zoom, students must:

1. Find a quiet space, preferably against a plain wall, where no one will walk behind you or into the frame while you are in class. Please be mindful of anything you have visible in your frame, could someone in our community find it inappropriate? Unprofessional? If you have any doubts, consider finding a blank wall, or removing it for the duration of class.
2. Find a stable surface for your device, so that your video is not causing a distraction by shaking.
3. Do not attend the Zoom while you are driving, at the pool, running errands, etc. This is class time and your full attention is required for your “attendance and participation”.
4. Wear earphones. This protects the privacy of all students in the class, so that everyone can be assured that only you can hear what is being said.
5. If you are not speaking, please mute your audio.
6. Please have your video on at all times, this courtesy ensures that you are giving the class your full and undivided attention, as you would be asked in a physical classroom. We can't make ourselves invisible in real life, so we should not on Zoom. If you must take a break for some reason, please return back to your computer as soon as possible.
7. When you have something you'd like to say, please click on the raise hand button. The professor or a designated student will be watching the hand raise buttons and will do their very best to make sure you are called on in the order you “raised your hand”. Sometimes a lot of hands go up at the same time, so your patience and understanding are also required. You might not get called on in the exact order, but know that the moderator(s) are trying their best.
8. In discussions, critiques, please say your comment rather than typing into the chat. Comments that are typed into the chat create a distracting parallel conversation which is not conducive to a smooth, focused, organic class discussion, not to mention, your comments might be missed.
9. When you are called on, please turn on your audio and limit your comments to 4 minutes max. The professor or conversation moderator will alert you after the 3 minute mark to wrap up your thoughts. When you are finished speaking, please mute your audio again.
10. If you are giving a presentation, speak for the assigned amount of time, make sure your screen share works and is ready to go before your presentation.
11. On your honor, students are asked to not record the zoom under any circumstances unless explicitly discussed with the professor and entire class and approved by the group ahead of time.
12. On your honor, students are requested to refrain from chatting with each other with the Zoom chat function unless absolutely necessary. Regular chatting between students is distracting and unprofessional.
13. On your honor, students are requested to refrain from internet surfing while on Zoom unless it is relevant to the class discussion. Even then, please be careful: it is all too easy to get distracted by the internet.

Discussions will be held at the beginning of every class session. Please make sure to be on time and to check with another student if you miss a day of class.



Remember, Zoom is still class time! These policies will help recreate the same community of confidentiality, professionalism, and respect required for students to share in class bravely and freely. These policies will ensure that Zoom time is as smooth and productive as a healthy in person classroom environment.