



Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Course Description:

This course will teach the skills of Basic Photography with the use of a digital SLR camera. Emphasis will be placed on the students ability to successfully use many of the manual settings on their camera as explained in daily lectures and shooting exercises while also learning the fundamentals of composing quality images. Students should have their own digital SLR camera and a laptop with Adobe Photoshop or photo editing software.

How Program Site Will Be Incorporated into the Course:

What better place to learn how to use your camera and take beautiful pictures than in one of the most visually spectacular cities in the world. Students can learn how to shoot in low light situations inside Prague Castle and experiment with Depth of Field when photographing the various statues and grave markers in the Old Jewish Cemetery. They can practice shooting with varying shutter speeds to create the illusion of movement by using panning, blurred and stop motion techniques while watching people walk across and boats pass under Charles Bridge. Prague at night has been said to come alive, which will help students to create some amazing long exposure photographs of the city at night. With the numerous historical and cultural sites to visit around Prague, it should be a very easy task to find subject matter for some stunning images during this three week long class. This class will be visiting numerous sites around the city and take a few planned excursions outside the city limits.

Prerequisites: none

Textbook(s) and Other Courses:

- Digital SLR Camera—capable of manual exposure. No point and shoot cameras!
- At least one lens for your digital SLR camera.
- Tripod
- Memory cards for digital camera. You may want to own more than one card if you shoot a lot.
- Memory card reader
- CD's, jump drive, or external hard drive for storage of images.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week 1	Basic Exposure and Shutter Speed
Week 2	Creative Interpretation and Design
Week 3	Depth of Field, Indoor and Outdoor Lighting with Available Light
Week 4	Portrait and Self-Portrait, Documentary
Week 5	Backlighting and Writing with Light
Week 6	Final Projects

II. Course Objectives:

Week 1

- Begin metering for manual exposure and making accurate manual exposures.
- Begin learning editing, filing and digital image storage.
- Observe and practice at what point fast shutter speeds freeze action and how slower speeds can be used to create a sense of motion.
- Practice the relationship between changing shutter speed and changing f-stop to maintain proper exposure.

Week 2

- Begin thinking creatively and practicing technical/design skills that contribute to visual ingenuity.

Week 3

- Observe and practice how the plane of focus increases with smaller apertures and decreases with wider apertures.
- Critical and creative thinking based on available and created lighting.

Week 4

- Practice interpretive portraiture--A good portrait will tell the viewer something about the person that is being photographed. This could be about lifestyle or emotional state of mind. This assignment is about conveying the story telling content of the subject, in a good design that can include other story telling elements, all in effective light.

Week 5

- This assignment will help you become more comfortable with your internal light meter.
- Pay attention to available light and how to correctly expose an image to create an effect.
- Learn how to use the Bulb feature on your camera when shooting at night to take long exposures.

Week 6

- Utilize all previously acquired skills to create a solid body of work.

III. Instructional Processes:

Students will:

1. Come to EVERY class and be there on time.
2. All work must be your own. All assignments must be original work, done specifically for the assignment, NO RECYCLING! Anyone cheating or plagiarizing will fail the class.
3. Have all assignments finished on time and participate in class discussions.
4. Come to every class prepared with a camera and tripod.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the basics of light.
 - Without light, there is no photography- always pick good light to work in.
 - Good light can be direct, like sunlight or a camera flash, or diffused like a cloudy day, the shadow side of a building or bouncing your flash off a white wall. The best use of light is making it "directional" or "sculpting." Sunlight when it is low in the sky creates scenes more pleasing to the eye. This is true of all light use.
2. Understand and practice the basics of good exposure
 - Expose manually.
 - Interpret light through metering and choosing an appropriate shutter speed and aperture combination for your subject.
 - Understand and practice how fast shutter speeds freeze action and slow shutter speed cause a blurring sense of movement.
 - Understand how aperture or f stop affects the depth of field - Depth of field is the range of focus that different apertures have in different focal length lenses. A wide open lens aperture like f 2.8 will have a narrow range of focus and sharp focusing will be critical. A small lens aperture opening like f 16 will have a deep range of focus that allows more of the scene to be in focus with less need to be focused on any one spot.
3. Understand and practice how basics of design help make better photographs
 - The simplest design that works for photography is to start through the viewfinder by framing your subject matter, and the elements that relate to it, into thirds-vertical, horizontal and/or diagonal.
4. Begin making content rich, story telling photographs
 - Begin to see the emotional impact in subject matter utilizing light, design and perspective in pursuing "the decisive moment."
 - Creating a series of storytelling photos on one subject.
5. Other goals
 - Digital printing
 - Camera nomenclature and set up
 - Editing and storing digital images

V. Evaluation:

A. Evaluation Methods:

Grades for the course are based on completing the weekly assignments and final project on time. In addition attendance, classroom participation and extra credit assignments will be considered. It is recommended that students keep all graded work on file until they receive their final grade.

B. Grading Scale:

90-100	= A
80-89	= B
70-79	= C
60-69	= D
0-59	= F

VI. Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Multiple unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices: Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign either (1) an F or zero for the assignment or (2) an F for the course.

VII. Instructional Hours:

This course will consist of a minimum of 37.5 full hours of formal instruction.