



Arcadia in Barcelona

**BARC ARSP 113S Documentary Photography, European & American Voice
Compared**

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: None

Expenses to Note: Digital processing, Portfolio materials, site visits. You do **not** need to have an expensive or sophisticated camera.

Course Description

Barcelona is an ideal city in which to learn photography, with its beautiful architecture and artistic vibrancy.

This course offers students a solid foundation in digital photography, taught by an internationally active professional photographer.

The course has both theoretical and practical components, which reinforce each other, and the teaching style is dynamic and interactive. Students will be taking pictures throughout and will have the opportunity to create different types of imagery, including portraits, architecture, landscapes and abstract imagery. They will also learn digital post-processing techniques and apply these to their own work.

Self- and peer-evaluation forms an important part of the course, which develops critical abilities and an independent approach towards professional development.

Rationale and Impact of Course

An objective of the course is to gain knowledge of the basics about shooting color and black and white images with digital cameras. The class members will leave the course confident in knowing how to use their camera, and having produced a high standard black and white or color portfolio that reveals their personal experience of Barcelona.

The students will improve the ability to creatively interpret and criticise the photographic image and will develop the ability to think critically about pictures they see.

Country and Program Connection: Spain – Barcelona Center for Education Abroad

Learning Outcomes and/or expected Student Competencies

By the end of the course, students will have developed an understanding of their own photographic language, and have acquired a more critical eye in evaluating and reading the photographic image. They will have gained insight into the place and use of photographic images in the media and society, and how these images are created and presented.

Through their own work, they will gain a framework for their own creative skills, and an understanding of the visual language to successfully realise their ideas through the

medium of photography. The technical skills they will have gained will be the correct use and operation of digital cameras, control and manipulation of the image through the post image making process by processing and printing their own images to a high standard for display and evaluation.

Self- and peer- evaluation will form an important part of the course.

Course Requirements:

-ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day scheduled for the critique. Failing to shoot the required number of images may adversely affect your overall grade. Failing to complete the written assignments on time will adversely affect your overall grade.

-FINAL PROJECT

The course culminates with the student presenting a final portfolio with a body of printed and well presented images. Important attention will be given to the images as part of a photographic series, rather than as just stand-alone images. Final prints could be presented in either black and white or colour. The portfolio will be accompanied by a written synopsis of the work presented. These projects will be presented at the Student Art Show.

-READING ASSIGNMENTS

The reading assignments may be given before class. These will be on theoretical and practical issues regarding photography, and related to the following class. Students need to read the assignments to participate in the class debate and discussions.

-ATTENDANCE

At Arcadia, all professors follow the same attendance policy: attendance is mandatory. You are allowed 2 absences. Any unexcused absences beyond those will negatively impact your grade, bringing the grade down with each additional unexcused absence. Ex: 3 absences, A- becomes B+; 4 absences, B- becomes C, etc. If you have reached the 2 absences, be absolutely sure that you attend every remaining class in the semester or that you have a valid doctor's note specifically excusing your absence. You are responsible for obtaining the assignment, the material and any class notes.

If you miss more than 4 sessions, you will lose the right to take the final exam and will receive an F as a total grade of the course.

Punctuality is expected of all students. Coming late to class for more than 10 minutes three times will be counted as an unjustified absence.

-GRADING

It is very difficult to produce good work by cramming the night before it is due. Work process and progress counts as much as a final product.

A: Excellent

Indicates work of a very high character. This grade is reserved for work that shows inspiration, demonstrating significant insight developed to its fullest extent and presented with exquisite craftsmanship. Strongly exceeding requirements of

assignments. Growing level of improvement. Strong positive attitude toward the work.

B: Good, above average

Indicates work that is definitely above average. This level of work shows thorough exploration and development, and is well presented with good craftsmanship, but it may not rise to the highest level of excellence. Improvement showing marks of progress. Work is accurate and complete. Positive attitude towards the work.

C: Average

Indicates work of average or medium character. Mediocre or conservative performance, satisfying all requirements of assignments with a neutral and ordinary level of initiative and attitude.

D/F: Fail

Indicates that the student knows so little of the subject that his/her work cannot be accepted. Work in this category may be unfinished, unimaginative, undeveloped or poorly executed, and shows minimal understanding of issues. Level of initiative, attitude and improvement non-existent.

Photo assignment 1: Portfolio plus written self-evaluation: 20%

Photo assignment 2: Portfolio plus written self-evaluation 25%

Paper: 20%

Final project: 25%

Class participation: 10%

-REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Digital camera of no less than 5 megapixels, manual camera (if possible).

Course Outline

The exact order in which the classes are delivered may vary slightly with the ability and interests of the group.

Part 1

Class 1: Course Introduction and overview of basic principles. What makes a good photograph?

Introduction to the course. Syllabus review. Camera functions.

‘Talking about Light’. Exposure basics.

Class 2: Camera Basics/ Looking at Photographs/ Making the First photographs.

Taking photographs, using a digital camera. ISO, white balance.

Part 2

Class 1: Lecture: Cameras and lenses.

Aperture and shutter speed. Correct exposure. Exposure curves. Exposure compensation. Bracketing. Photography examples.

Class 2: Lecture: Portraits

The psychology of portraiture. Techniques for rapport building. Types of portrait. Practice.

Part 3

Class 1: Lecture: Composition, designing photographs.

Lecture on design and photography, how we see, theories of vision, basics of composition in an image.

Class 2: Lecture: Making Documents and digital image management

Lecture on how photographs are kept, presented, stored and backed up. File management and 'cloud' storage.

Part 4

Class 1: Architectural photography. The Zone System.

Class 2: Visit to an important architectural site to practise technique.

Part 5

Class 1: Optional Lecture: Film types and processing. Whether this class is taught depends on the level of interest and experience the students have in film work.

Review of film types, tungsten, slide, Polaroid, infra red, and others. Review of cross processing techniques, achieving a 'look' to your work. Alternatively this class may focus on digital counterparts to these techniques.

Digital processing tutorial 1

Basics of Photoshop. Class are introduced to the layout of the program and how it compares to a traditional darkroom.

Part 6

Class 1: Critical evaluations, looking at photographs, the fine print

Class 2: Digital processing 2

Working with layers and basic tools in Photoshop Class, watch the process of constructing a digital image, watching and replicating a basic post-processing workflow.

Part 7

Class 1: Lecture: Styles of Photography.

Lecture on the different styles of photography, from commercial work, through reportage, photojournalism, documentary, architectural and fashion photography.

Class 2: Gallery visit 1.

Gallery visit to current photographic exhibition in Barcelona.

Part 8

Class 1: Developing a personal style. Examples of great photographers, their styles, and how they achieve them.

Class 2: Introduction to fashion photography

Part 9

Class 1: Shoot logistics. Planning and executing complex shoots.

Class 2: Lecture: Advanced Photoshop techniques- layers and curves
Manipulating your images in Photoshop and producing digital black and white images.

Part 10

Class 1: Practice session of advanced Photoshop techniques.

Class 2: Gallery visit 2

Part 11

Class 1: Independent tutorials and idea proposals for final presentations, review of work so far including journals.

Class 2: Reading assignment 14: Reading pack 15 'Shooting Time'

Part 12

Class 1: Studio lighting. Introduction and basic principles.

Class 2: Practise of studio lighting techniques. Use of light modifiers to create different effects.

Part 13

Visit to a working studio

Part 14

Class 1: Portfolio preparation, tutorials
Week 14

Class 2:
Portfolio preparation, tutorials

Part 15

Class 1: Final Portfolio Presentation and submission of final written task.

Bibliography:

On Photography, Susan Sontag.

The HotShoe Diaries, Joe McNally

Master Lighting Guide, Christopher Grey

The Digital SLR Handbook, Michael Freeman

The Complete Guide to Light and Lighting in Digital Photography, Michael Freeman

Websites:

Kenrockwell.com- various articles

Blog.chasejarvis.com

Strobist.com

Theartorialist.blogspot.com
Luminouslandscape.com

Website Description:

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Additional Information for Photography Courses in Barcelona

Film- you may shoot film if you so wish but it is not obligatory as the emphasis will be on digital photography. Processing typically costs €5/ roll.

Prints- anticipate spending around €30 on printing during the course. The tutor will direct you to labs who can produce high quality results.

Other materials- you will be making a folio for the final art show, and the costs for this depend on the document you make and the materials you use.

Assuming shoot digitally, the only costs you will incur will be for assignment prints, and final project prints. You can do your image processing on the computers at the Arcadia in Barcelona Center, which are equipped with *Photoshop Elements*.