

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
COURSE SYLLABUS    SPRING 2008

PHO 181    INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

COMMUNICATION BUILDING ROOM 306  
MW 8:00-9:20  
CID 4095    CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Frank Golden  
OFFICE : Art Building D / room 102  
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OFFICE HOURS: TUTH 12-2:00 and by appointment

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Introduction to Photography is a beginning course for non-photography majors. Content of the course includes a study of cameras, photographic materials, and visual principles. Students must provide a digital camera.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To acquire a basic knowledge of the camera.
- Promote problem solving and evaluation skills in class assignments and critiques.
- To encourage a grater appreciation of the photographic arts

REQUIRED SUPPLIES: A camera. All assignments can be shot using a camera and equipment in the low to mid range of the cost spectrum.

GRADING: Assignments are graded based on:

1. How well the directions for the assignment are followed. This includes everything from actually reading the directions, doing proper research, and meeting the deadline.
2. The creativity of your solution. This deals with the thought process, exploring all the options and creating a unique result
3. Presentation. This is a two part process with the first being a visual presentation piece and the second is your oral presentation. You must develop enough belief in yourself and your abilities to stand up in front of a group of people and present your work with no apologies.
4. The *final grade* will be an average of the assignments.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT: All finished projects must be archived onto a CD. At the end of the semester you must turn in, for a grade, a CD with a complete set of all the projects you created during the semester.

Projects are scored on a 12 point system:

10-12 superior to excellent	A
7-9 above average	B
5-7 average meeting minimal requirements	C
2-3 below average	D
1 failure to meet minimal requirements	F

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Attendance and participation in class sessions and critiques is very important. The presentation of your work, in class, demonstrates preparation and knowledge of the physical and creative processes needed to produce a good photograph. You must develop the ability to verbalize the reasoning behind your design choices and begin to understand that all photographs say something about the photographer as well as the subject. Every photograph is an impression of the photographers "vision" and point of view.

Students must also learn to give and take constructive criticism of their work in a professional manor.

I expect a variety of opinions and suggestions during the crits. NOTE: *Students that say little or nothing at presentation and critique should not expect a good class participation grade.*

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** According to the Undergraduate Catalogue, "A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class-work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences." NOTE: *this refers to 3 hours, not 3 classes.*

ART 234 is a cumulative course in which understanding and achievement at any stage is dependent upon the degree of understanding from in the previous stage. Catching up may prove to be difficult, so keep absences to a minimum. Students will be allowed 2 class absences without penalty. Any absences over 2 classes, tardiness, or leaving early, can result in final grade reductions.

If you are absent, you are expected to find out what you missed from one of your classmates and be prepared for the next class.

**CLASSROOM VISITORS:** Visitors must get permission from the instructor to remain in the classroom or lab during designated class time.

**PLAGIARISM:** The university defines plagiarism as "the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit. "Plagiarism is considered a serious academic and legal offense in our culture. Penalties for plagiarism can range from a failing grade on the assignment to expulsion from the university.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Any student with special needs, due to a disability, should inform the instructor, of any special considerations needed, on the first day of class. The student must initiate requests for accommodations. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day must be allowed to complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor with a written statement describing/concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments.