

PHOT 289
Photography Portfolio
Three (3) Credits

Course Description:

In this course, students will create a professional portfolio in their desired area of focus. Emphasis will be placed on ideation and concept while developing a personal style with a high standard of professionalism and technical proficiency. The end result will be a professional portfolio the students will use to enter their photography careers.

Pre-/Co Requisites:

Instructor approval needed

Course times:

M, W 8:00 am – 9:30 am

Studio times:

By appointment, see schedule on door

Room number:

2225 Thatcher Hall

Instructor:

Clint Saunders

Office number:

TH 2225

Office Hours:

Available during all studio hours

Phone:

307-702-1368

Email:

clint.saunders@dakotacollege.edu

Text:

None

Objectives:

1. To learn how to develop a concept
2. To learn how to create from a concept
3. To understand the importance of concept

4. To recognize a personal style
5. To develop a personal style
6. To create a professional portfolio

Relationship to Campus Theme:

This course addresses the campus theme by having students look inward in order to find a means to express themselves while developing their own personal style based on their personal life experiences and expectations for the future.

Classroom Policies:

1. Cell phones and related devices are prohibited in the classroom at all times. You have the option of keeping them turned off or leaving them at home.
2. The internet in the classroom will be used for educational purposes only. Do not use the internet for Facebook, instant messaging, or any other similar websites during class time.
3. Food and beverages are permitted in accordance with IVN classroom policy.
4. Be respectful of other students, technicians, instructors, and guests.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Dishonesty in the classroom or studio and with assignments, quizzes, exams, and papers is a serious offense and is subject to disciplinary action by the instructor and college administration. For more information refer to the Student Handbook. Please note that I have a ZERO tolerance policy for cheating, plagiarism, and copyright violations.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

If you have a disability for which you are, or may be, requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact your instructor and Jan Nahinurk in the Learning Center (228-5479) as early as possible during the beginning of the semester.

Grading Philosophy:

Please understand that I do not care about your grades, I care about your education. My job is to teach you, your job is to learn what I teach you, and hopefully more. If we both do our jobs, grades shouldn't be necessary.

An instructor once said to me, "if you do everything that is expected of you in this class, then you will earn a "C". Because only doing what is expected is average, and a "C" represents an average grade. If you want a "B," do more than is expected, if you want an "A," do a lot more than is expected."

I embraced this philosophy as a student and discovered something amazing. When I did more than what was expected, I learned more, and when I did a lot more than was expected, I learned a lot more. Amazing huh?

Because of my philosophies on grading, I allow you to re-do any assignment at any time during the semester for a better grade. I will also use rubrics when grading so you know exactly what you are being graded on and where to improve. However, the best way to succeed in my class is to not focus on - "what's my grade" - and instead focus on - "how much can I learn." If you embrace this, you won't be re-doing assignments for grades, you'll be re-doing them in order to learn, and the grade will become secondary as well as take care of itself.

Grading Scale:

A (90 – 100%) B (80 – 89%) C (70 – 79%) D (60 – 69%) F (below 60%)

Attendance:

If you aren't in class, you aren't learning the material. Don't miss class! And, don't be tardy! Being late or being on time is nothing more than a habit. If you are in the habit of being late, this will be a good time to work on changing that habit to one of being on time. In the career field, being late is a just cause for firing employees, so if you are in the habit of being late, then you can use this class as an opportunity to work on changing that habit. However, I'd rather you were late, than miss class, so if you are running late, please come in quietly and take your seat.

Critiques:

Critiques are a crucial part of learning. During critiques, the instructor and students will offer feedback on your work. The following rules apply to critiques.

1. Be respectful!
2. Give positive and negative feedback. Positive feedback is important to learn what is working and to build confidence. Negative feedback is important because we cannot improve without it. All negative feedback should be as constructive as possible.
3. When receiving a critique, keep an open mind and don't get defensive. Remember, no one is attacking you or your work. The goal is to learn. You cannot learn with a closed mind or defensive attitude.

Disclaimer Statement:

The instructor of this course reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus without prior notice.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1 – Introduction – Concept and personal style

- What is concept
- The importance of concept
- What is style

Week 2 – Outdoor photography

- Identifying personal style
- Creating with personal style

Week 3 – Commercial photography

- Identifying personal style
- Creating with personal style
- Creating with concept

Week 4 – Portrait photography

- Identifying personal style
- Creating with personal style
- Creating with concept

Week 5 – Photojournalism

- Identifying personal style
- Creating with personal style
- Creating with concept

Week 6 – Choosing a field

- Choosing a field of study for your portfolio
- Identifying your style
- Creating a project from a concept

Week 7– Further creating from a concept

- Further developing a concept
- Creating to support a concept

Week 8 – 15 – Create a professional portfolio

- Using concept
- Creating from personal style
- Cohesiveness
- Professionalism
- Technical proficiency
- Creativity
- Presentation
- Artist statement
- Project statement
- Biography