

**PHOT 296**  
**Outdoor Photography Study Abroad**  
**Three (3) Credits**

**Course Description:**

This is an eight-week intensive course in which students will learn all aspects of outdoor photography including lighting, equipment, locations, techniques, post production, image editing, presentation and careers. Students will explore a variety of subject matter including landscapes, scenic, wildlife, rustic, rural, and urban photography. Students will spend six weeks in an online classroom prior to travel. One week traveling abroad in a photo intensive program where students will have daily lectures and photo excursions. One week preparing a digital portfolio along with matted and framed, gallery ready, prints for display.

**Pre-/Co Requisites:**

PHOT 180 and PHOT 150 or instructor consent

**Course times and locations:**

Online Class available 4 weeks before departure.

Travel abroad – Leave the US on Wednesday September 5<sup>th</sup> - arrive in Dublin, Ireland on the 6<sup>th</sup> - Various locations in North Western Ireland 7<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> – Depart Ireland on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> – arrive in US on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>..

Post trip portfolios and printing – (photo majors only) - Times TBD – due on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Instructor:**

Clint Saunders

**Office number and hours:**

Online office hours via the online class shell. Instructor will travel with students and be available during all hours of trip.

**Phone:**

Clint's cell – 307-702-1368

**Email:** [clint.saunders@dakotacollege.edu](mailto:clint.saunders@dakotacollege.edu)

**Text:** - *None*

**Cost:** Please see a breakdown of costs and payment due dates in the application and payment sections of the website. [www.dakotacollege.edu/ireland](http://www.dakotacollege.edu/ireland)

## **Travel Abroad Course**

The travel abroad course is a three-week intensive course in which students will be engaged in photographic activities, lectures, and critiques on a daily basis. There is a cost associated with this course, numerous forms that need to be completed, and other requirements which must to be met by each student. Students interested in enrolling in this course should contact the instructor in advance to receive information on course logistics, costs and requirements.

The daily routine will include photographing during key times of the day for lighting, including sunrise and sunset hours, lectures on outdoor photography and techniques, lectures on the culture and history of the areas students are photographing, and critique sessions.

The final portfolio will consist of 20-30 examples of a student's work from the trip. Students will submit their portfolios to the online course shell within one week of returning to the US.

Photo majors will print, mat, and frame a number of prints (to be determined later) to be hung in the Thatcher Hall Gallery Frames on the first and second floors of Thatcher Hall, on the Dakota College at Bottineau campus.

### **Objectives:**

1. To apply natural lighting in outdoor photography.
2. To introduce students to a variety of outdoor subject matter.
3. To understand the correct equipment used while photographing different outdoor subjects.
4. To apply post production, image correction, and digital darkroom techniques as they apply to outdoor photography.
5. To research and learn about career opportunities in outdoor photography.
6. To demonstrate and understanding of opportunities, requirements, preparations, and protocol for traveling abroad when doing outdoor photography.
7. To understand the importance of culture, history, and customs when photographing in other countries.
8. To create and present an outdoor portfolio.
9. To demonstrate the ability to print, mat and frame their work for a professional presentation.

### **Relationship to Campus Theme:**

This course addresses the campus theme by having students work in nature using modern digital equipment as used in photography and photographic post production. Students learn the differences between past and present

photographic techniques while exploring possibilities for future growth and change in our industry.

### **Classroom Policies:**

1. Be respectful of other students, technicians, instructors, and guests.
2. You must participate in discussions in order to receive full credit.
3. Respect and care for all equipment whether it's yours or the colleges.
4. Be on time.
5. Be courteous and respectful – you are representing yourself, DCB, and our hosts when we are traveling abroad.
6. Be humble.
7. Be timely – arrive early for all lectures and travel times.
8. Be mindful – You will be in a different country with different beliefs and cultural norms than your own. Understand and respect the cultural beliefs of the area you are visiting.
9. Be responsible – you are here to learn and experience new things. You are NOT HERE TO PARTY.

### **Communication/Campus Email/Cell Phones**

All students at DCB are given a DCB email account. This account is how DCB will communicate with you. You will receive important emails about classes, financial aid, emergencies, school closures, important dates, etc. through this email account. Along with the important emails you will receive, it also gives you access to Microsoft Office software.

I WILL use your DCB email account for ALL communications with you prior to leaving on the trip. YOU are responsible for checking your email regularly. I will email all communication about the trip to this account and you are responsible for knowing all information. Some of the information you receive will require immediate action, so please check it regularly.

There will also be an online course shell for communicating in this class, and I will set up a private Facebook group for all people going on this trip. This is a great way for everyone to communicate.

When abroad you will communicate with the instructor via cell phones. The instructor's cell phone is listed on the first page of this Syllabus, and we will construct a group text for communication.

### **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 Kayla O'Toole in the Learning Center (228-5479) as early as possible during the beginning of the semester.

**Title IX:**

Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the college as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available.

DCB has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The College strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the College Title IX Coordinator.

Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member **must** share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources on the Title IX website. [www.dakotacollege.edu/student-life/safety/title-ix](http://www.dakotacollege.edu/student-life/safety/title-ix)

**GRADES:****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.

The best way to succeed in my class is to NOT focus on - "what's my grade," or "what do I need to get an A?" - but instead focus on - "how much can I learn." If you embrace this, you won't be doing assignments for grades, you'll

be doing them in order to learn, and the grade will become secondary and take care of itself.

### **Daily Assignments:**

ALL assignments must be created for this class. You **MUST** create new work every day. Work created for other classes, or created in the past will **NOT** be accepted.

A minimum of 5 new images will be posted to the online course shell for this class at the end of every day.

All assignments will be graded on the following categories. Each of the following five categories are worth 50 points each for a total of 250 points on each assignment.

**Aesthetics** - We are learning to create professional images that would sell to a magazine, stock photography house, or hang in a client's living room or art gallery. EVERY assignment should be done with this in mind.

While aesthetics can be purely subjective, there is still a professional standard that we are striving for.

**Principles of art and design** – Composition and design are basic visual rules that apply to all 2 dimensional art. This part is not subjective. A strong composition is a strong composition.

**Intent** – What was the photographer's intent and did they successfully create an image that expresses that intent?

For classes, the intent will be the criteria for the assignment. For example, if the assignment is freezing motion, then did the photographer successfully freeze motion? Is the viewer interpreting what the photographer wanted to say? Is it clear what the photographer was trying to accomplish?

**Technical proficiency** – This one is fairly simple as it's all about using the photography equipment properly. Is the photograph in focus, is the white balance correct, is the exposure correct, were all the camera settings correct, was lighting equipment used properly, etc.

**Critiques** – Each week you will critique one of your photos and one of a classmate's photos using the criteria listed in the "critique section" below.

Each week I will critique your photos and address the five categories. I will tell you exactly where the image is strong and exactly where the image could improve. You are allowed re-shoot any assignment for a better grade. The exception is LATE WORK.

**Late Work:**

The photography and art worlds work on strict deadlines, therefore it is important to develop the habit of turning work in on time. In the work world, if you miss a deadline, you get fired. IN THIS CLASS, YOU WILL LOSE ONE FULL LETTER GRADE FOR EVERY DAY THE ASSIGNMENT IS LATE, AND LATE WORK MAY NOT BE RE-DONE FOR A BETTER GRADE.

**Final Portfolios:**

The majority of your final grade will be determined by your final portfolio.

Your final portfolio will consist of 20-30 examples of your work from the trip. You will submit your portfolio to the online course shell within one week of returning to the US.

You will print, mat, and frame a number of prints (to be determined later) to be hung in the Thatcher Hall Gallery Frames on the first and second floors of Thatcher Hall.

**Final grades:**

A final grade for the class is an assessment of what you have learned in the class for the entire semester. Because you are passionate about photography and have invested a great deal of money and time to go on this trip, I expect that everyone will earn an 'A.'

Your final portfolio grade should match your final grade for the semester, as it is a reflection of what you learned for the semester. The exception would be late work.

IF YOUR DAILEY ASSIGNMENT GRADES ARE LOW BECAUSE OF LATE WORK, RE-SHOOTING WILL NOT IMPROVE THE GRADE, AND THE LOWER GRADES WILL BE AVERAGED INTO YOUR FINAL PORTFOLIO GRADE.

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Critiques:**

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

You are responsible for critiquing one of your own photos and one of your classmate's photos each week. Critiques are due the following day after homework is due.

**Use the following criteria when critiquing photos. Please list and discuss all four of these for each critique.**

**Aesthetics** - Do you visually like or dislike the image? This is purely subjective. Everyone has their own idea on what they find visually appealing. So, there is no right or wrong answer here, it is purely opinion. Critique what you like and/or don't like or would change about the image. Keep in mind the professional standard we are striving for.

**Principles of art and design** – In Photo 180 we learn principles of design and composition. Use the proper vocabulary and discuss what is working and what could be improved in terms of design and composition. Most of this is based on visual rules, however, some of it will definitely be subjective based on the viewers opinions.

**Intent** – What was the photographer's intent and did they successfully create an image that expresses that intent?

For classes, the intent will be the criteria for the assignment. For example, if the assignment is freezing motion, then did the photographer successfully freeze motion? Is the viewer interpreting what the photographer wanted to say? Is it clear what the photographer was trying to accomplish?

**Technical proficiency** – This one is fairly simple, as it's all about using the photography equipment properly. Is the photograph in focus, is the white balance correct, is the exposure correct, were all the camera settings correct, was lighting equipment used properly, etc.

**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.

**Attendance:**

You are required to attend ALL scheduled activities while traveling abroad. NO EXCEPTIONS. You will have free time every day to explore and participate in touristy things.

## **Photography Program Internship/Field Study Guidelines (Practicum)**

- Student's in Dakota College at Bottineau's (DCB) photography classes will do internship or field study experiences as part of their educational training. These applied experiences will help them to be "job ready" when they enter the profession. The classes for which internship or field study instruction will be provided are as follows:

- 

PHOTO 180

PHOTO 292

PHOTO 190

PHOTO 234

PHOTO 240

PHOTO 232

PHOTO 250

PHOTO 290

PHOTO 285

PHOTO 289

PHOTO 210

- The DCB photography program will not assertively or opportunistically promote its services outside of the campus environment in order to not be in competition with the private sector. The program will take measures that will help prevent it from requisitioning work otherwise accomplished by persons in the profession.
- Pictures taken by photography students as part of their course of study will not belong to them. Ownership rights will lie with the parties for whom the photographs have been taken. Students will sign a waiver stating that the product of their internship or field study photography work belongs to the subjects of the photos or to their representatives.
- All revenue generated by students' internship or field study experiences will be invested back into the program to cover operation and equipment costs. Dakota College students, instructors, or staff will gain no monetary benefit from their participation.
- Students participating in an internship or field study exercise will be supervised and provided guidance by their instructor and advisor. No applied training event will be approved that does not have proper authorization from the photography program's instructor/advisor. However, although the students will be taught and directed by the institution, the actual engagement in the educational experience may or may not be done under direct supervision of their instructor.
- Transportation to the locations where the photos will be taken will not be provided by the institution.

### **Disclaimer Statement:**

The instructor of this course reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus without prior notice. All students are required to purchase the travel insurance as described in the “program cost” section of the webpage.

[www.dakotacollege.edu/ireland](http://www.dakotacollege.edu/ireland)

**Tentative Course Outline:**

**Pre-travel lectures**

Week 1 – Introduction, Various Outdoor subject matter, Technical Foundations, and tips for studying abroad

Week 2 – Vast Landscapes

Week 3- Intimate Landscape and Macro

Week 4 – Wildlife

Week 5 –Rustic, Rural, Urban Decay, Cityscapes

Week 6 – Nighttime Photography

Week 7 – Careers in outdoor photography

Week 8 – Final Portfolios