



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	PHOT
Course Number:	150
Descriptive Title:	The Art of Photography
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Photography
Course Disciplines:	Art, Photography
Catalog Description:	This course is a survey of photography as an art form, which includes the evolution of photography as art. The course will also cover the aesthetic and cultural impact of photography as art. Also included is an examination of the techniques and methods of traditional and digital photography. Students will learn camera functions and develop their ability to analyze, evaluate, and compose photographs.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	02/19/2008
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 2008
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C1 - Arts and Humanities - Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3A - Arts
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Critique and Discuss</p> <p>The student will be able to critique and discuss the production and role of commercial, fine art, photojournalism, documentary and portrait photography in contemporary civilization.</p> <p>SLO #2 Apply Concepts</p> <p>The student will be able to apply design concepts to the compositional structure of photographic images.</p> <p>SLO #3 Demonstrate Knowledge</p> <p>The student will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how the aperture and shutter functions on a camera control depth of field and the depiction of motion in a photographic image.</p>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define photography terminology as it pertains to style, form, visual elements, principles of design, and technical processes. 2. Summarize methods used to produce traditional and digital photographic images. 3. Describe and evaluate the emotional, symbolic and/or narrative content of photographic images. 4. Analyze and evaluate the communicative intent of photographic images and the effective application of the principles of design. 5. Summarize socio-cultural factors that influence the production of photographic images and analyze the socio-cultural impact of these images on society. 6. Describe correct operation of basic camera equipment. 7. Contrast traditional and digital photographic techniques. 8. Analyze the relationship between form and content in photographic images. 9. Compose photographic images demonstrating solutions to visual problems involving the evaluation of aesthetic and conceptual issues.
Major Topics:	<p>I. History of Photography (7 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Evolution of technical processes from light sensitive to digital</p> <p>B. Impact on other forms of art and fields of study</p> <p>C. Impact on society and culture</p> <p>II. Development of Photographic Forms (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Portraiture</p> <p>B. Landscape</p> <p>C. Documentary</p> <p>D. Photomontage</p>

E. Snapshot

F. Advertising

G. Fine art

H. Film and video

I. Internet

III. Aesthetic Principles of the Image (4 hours, lecture)

A. Terms and concepts

B. The visual elements

C. Principles of design

IV. Stylistic Approaches (5 hours, lecture)

A. Representational versus abstract

B. Formal versus expressive

C. Expressive versus documentary

D. Fine versus commercial

V. Artistic Content and Intent (3 hours, lecture)

A. Interpretation and evaluation

B. Relationship of form to visual communication (intent and content)

C. Relationship of technique to form and content

VI. Visual Communication and Meaning (3 hours, lecture)

A. Emotional, symbolic, thematic/narrative, historical, and cultural

VII. Traditional Photography (9 hours, lecture)

A. Principles of light and light sensitive materials

B. How the camera controls light

C. How film reacts to light

D. Effects of different lens types

E. Depth of field and focus controls

	<p>F. Single lens reflex (SLR) versus point and shoot cameras</p> <p>G. Overview of black and white darkroom techniques and terminology</p> <p>VIII. Digital Photography (9 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. What is a megapixel?</p> <p>B. Resolution and file size</p> <p>C. Raster versus vector technology</p> <p>D. Additive versus subtractive color theory</p> <p>E. White balance</p> <p>F. Digital SLR versus point and shoot cameras</p> <p>G. Digital file formats</p> <p>H. Prints versus web distribution</p> <p>I. Overview of digital imaging software and printing options</p> <p>IX. Composing Photographs (6 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Analysis and criticism</p> <p>B. Assess photographic compositions in terms of two-dimensional design concepts</p> <p>C. Assess correct camera operation in various environmental conditions</p> <p>D. Analyze the relationship between form and content in photographic compositions</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In a four-to-five page typed essay examine the work of a photographer and analyze the technical methods of production, form, and characteristics of the photographer's style
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a three-to-five page typed essay, trace the impact of a specific photograph or photographic movement on society, such as the impact of Ansel Adam's landscape photography on the development of the environmental movement.

Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Observe a series of photographic images depicting the same subject and photographed from different viewpoints such as close-up versus long shot, above versus below. In a three-to-five page essay, analyze and evaluate the impact of viewpoint on the perception of meaning in photographic images.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Other (specify), Term or Other Papers, True/False
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations, Other (specify)
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Other (specify), Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Robert Hirsch, Seizing the Light: A Social & Aesthetic History of Photography, 4th Edition, Routledge, 2024
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	<p>This course includes substantial writing assignments so students should be able to apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing technique.</p> <p>Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.</p>

	<p>Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>Plan, write, and revise 500-word multi-paragraph expository essays including an introduction and conclusion, exhibiting coherence and unity, avoiding major grammatical and mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, and demonstrating awareness of audience, purpose, and language choice.</p> <p>ENGL A - Plan, write, and revise 500-word multi-paragraph expository essays including an introduction and conclusion, exhibiting coherence and unity, avoiding major grammatical and mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, and demonstrating awareness of audience, purpose, and language choice</p>
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
<p>Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable</p>	<p>This course includes substantial writing assignments so students should be able to apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing technique.</p> <p>Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.</p> <p>ENGL 84 - Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel.</p> <p>Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>ENGL A - Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques.</p> <p>Plan, write, and revise 500-word multi-paragraph expository essays including an introduction and conclusion, exhibiting coherence and unity, avoiding major grammatical and mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, and demonstrating awareness of audience, purpose, and language choice.</p> <p>ENGL A - Plan, write, and revise 500-word multi-paragraph expository essays including an introduction and conclusion, exhibiting coherence and unity, avoiding major grammatical and mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, and demonstrating awareness of audience, purpose, and language choice</p>

Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Joyce Dallal
Date:	10/01/2006
Original Board Approval Date:	02/19/2008
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Weng San Sit
Date:	11/11/2024
Last Board Approval Date:	03/24/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2025