



**PHO 339 Environmental Portraiture
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016**

Instructor: Chad D. Smith, Associate Professor
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Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: Within 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Due to the rising cost of photo textbooks that are outdated by the time of publication, there is no mandatory text. Instead of a textbook, it is recommended that students get a Lynda.com account, an online tutorial for software and photographic information.

Course Description:

This course is an exploration of the creative potential inherent in the relationship between subject and environment in portraiture. Basic portrait strategies in both location and studio settings will be covered. Considerations in lighting, composition, gesture and mood will be discussed. Contemporary issues in portraiture for commercial, editorial and art purposes will be covered. Prerequisite: PHO 112 and PHO 210

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:

- the ability to use various techniques, methodologies, and visual solutions that apply to photographic portraiture by effectively and efficiently use of different types of lighting techniques in a multitude of environments
- the knowledge of how to produce a range of light quality from hard to soft that is appropriate to the subject or feeling that the photographer wants to convey.
- editing and archiving of digital files and have an advance understanding of the anatomy of cameras, ISO, aperture, shutters, etc.
- put into practice the rules of composition and design with an understanding of the photographic vocabulary and theory through critiques and participating in critical evaluations regarding their own work and the work of others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course will consist of a series of photographic assignments and exercises to assist the student in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week students will work on various combinations of shooting assignments and participate in critiques of both student and professional works along with discussions, readings, etc.

Grading: “Grades are not given, they are earned”.

Students will receive a numerical grade that will be determined by performance on critiques, exercises, quizzes, and classroom/lab participation. These will be added up at the end of the semester and 100% of the total amount will be averaged for the semester’s final grade. All assessments of each assignment can only count a maximum of 95 points each with the exception of attendance and essays counting a maximum of 100 points. The Final Review will receive three grades in each of the following categories: Creativity, Technique, and Presentation and each will count a total of 95 points. At the end of the semester all the grades will be averaged and the following scale will be used: A = 100-90, B = 89- 80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 and F = 59 to 0.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students will have access to a Macintosh OS X computer and print lab equipment with all the software needed to complete photographic assignments and exercises. Students will need to provide the following:

- **35 mm DSLR camera minimum of 12 mega pixels**

Find the instruction manual and read it.

- **Memory Cards for cameras, i.e. Compact Flash (CF), Secure Digital Card (SD card)**
- **Tripod** is a must in most low light situations
- **One 500GB external hard drive (two hard drives would be better)**
- **Spiral notebook** for taking notes during class & Lab no lab tops or smart phone to be use for note taking

Optional:

- **Hand Held Flash or Speed Light**
- **Other materials as needed (i.e. inkjet paper)**

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me through email

Email: chad.smith@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account.

You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success. <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments

A. *Due Date*: All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Work that is late will have its grade reduced by 10 points for being handed in late. All work handed in after critique will be considered late, including partially completed assignments. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor of any problems that might make a project late well before the due date not five minutes before class begins. If the work is not turned in by the “moratorium” date set by the instructor that assignment will be assigned an "F" and cannot be resubmitted. It is the student's responsibility to turn the work in; I will not ask for it or track you down.

B. *Assignment Submission*: **All images must have been shot, processed and printed this semester for this class only.** No images from previous classes can be submitted. Work must be handed in at the beginning of the critique designated for that particular assignment to be counted “on time”.

Note: An incomplete grade may be granted if a student has some difficulty working on an assignment. The student must inform the instructor of the difficulty before the due date of the assignment to discuss the problem. More than 60% of the assignment must be completed. You will have two class periods from the original due date to complete the assignment. If the work is not turned in by then, the assignment will be counted as Late. If the work is not turned in by then, the assignment will be counted as “Late”. If the work is not turned in by the “moratorium” date set by the instructor that assignment will be assigned an "F" for that assignment. Remember, it is the student's responsibility to get the work turned in on time.

C. *Resubmission of Assignments*: I encourage everyone to improve upon your work by re-shooting your assignments. Occasionally I may insist upon redoing an assignment. This should not be seen as a negative experience as school is the ideal environment to learn from your mistakes. **Please note that resubmitting work will not guarantee a better grade.**

Guidelines for resubmissions:

1. The project must have originally been turned in on time.
Note: Work handed in late or incomplete may not be resubmitted.
2. Resubmitted assignments will be accepted up to two weeks after the original due date.
3. The new work must comply with the original project guidelines.
4. Make sure work is labeled with the assignment title.
5. The original work that was submitted initially must be included marked clearly.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times. Attendance counts a maximum of 100 points. Students will start with 100 points and 15 points will be subtracted from the original 100 points for every day missed. You will lose 10 points for arriving after roll is taken. **Note: A total of 3 absences from class meetings could result in a failing grade ("F") for the course or dropped from the class.** Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be turned into the professor in a timely manner.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures:

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

Campus Concealed Carry

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M- Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Your final grade will be derived from the following sources:

1. Class Participation:

The way you conduct yourself in class is extremely important. You should come to lectures and labs with questions from the assigned reading. Note taking during lectures and labs is essential. During critiques I want to hear your thoughts and feelings about the photographs being presented.

2. Demo Participation:

Demo will generally be devoted to learning lighting techniques, software and inkjet printing.

3. Assignments and Exercises:

You will have weekly visual assignments that are graded on how well the specific problems have been solved. Each assignment, unless otherwise noted, will be given a numerical grade. Exercises will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

4. Final Project:

Students will submit a final project that will consist of prints from past assignments and new work.