

Cell Phone Photography | ARTSTUDI 173S

Summer 2022 | 3 units

Monday/Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30

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Lab Manager: Sommer Wood

Office Hours by email/appointment

Online Class: Zoom Links available on Canvas

Course Description:

The course combines the critical analysis of cell phone photography with the creation of photographic art works that explore this specific medium's experimental, social and documentary potential. The increasing ubiquity of cell phone photography has had a widespread impact on the practice of photography as an art form. We will consider and discuss the ways in which the platforms of cell phone photography (Instagram, Snapchat) are democratizing image-making and transforming notions of authorship and subjectivity to an unprecedented extent, but also how the use of new technological tools help expand notions of creativity and aesthetic standards.

Learning Objectives:

Cell Phone Photography is a course with emphasis placed on the development of a personal photographic vision and the exploration of photography as an expressive art form. You will gain a basic sense of aesthetics and of the critical discourse that exists around the cultural significance of images, with specific attention given to the ubiquity of image media, and the prominence of smart phones and the web as sites of contemporary photographic practice. You will begin a personal narrative of image making that is unique to you within a global world of streaming content and create a professional portfolio of your work.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Engage with photographic practices and critical analysis using primarily the cell phone as an image-making, editing, and sharing device; explore several different programs/ apps to create still image content. (focus, aperture, shutter speed).
2. Evaluate the use of natural light and recognize its relationship to the photographic process
3. Become familiar with basic editing techniques using Adobe Lightroom.
4. Basic knowledge of historical developments of art photography, including standards of quality and image sequencing.

5. Create and demonstrate compositional and creative conceptual development in digital photography
6. Collaborate and analyze with peers in critiques of photographs

Class Structure:

We will meet on zoom for lectures, critiques, discussions, and supervised studio time. Critiques will take place as scheduled on the course calendar. Critiques serve as a valuable forum to develop critical thinking and verbal communication of both formal and conceptual concerns. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments will be posted to instagram accounts students will create specifically for the class. All work to be uploaded before the start of class when an assignment is due. You are expected to have work completed on time for every critique (late work will negatively affect your grade).

Attendance:

Attendance, punctuality and active participation in all class sessions, discussions and activities is essential for your success. If you are absent for more than three classes your grade will be lowered by one full letter. Three instances of partial attendance (late arrivals or early departures) equals one absence. If further absences or partial attendance occur, grades will continue to be lowered accordingly. This is a studio class. It is absolutely essential to attend class in order to succeed.

Grading Breakdown:

80% Assignments:

- Assignments 1 through 6 (10% each - 60% total)
- Assignment 7/Final Project - a 2-week final project based on a student generated proposal (20%)

20% Class attendance and participation in discussions and critiques.

Assignments:

- **Assignment 1 (Due 6/22):**
Apply Amy Arbus questions to 5 of your own existing images from your photo library. Upload those 5 photos to your personal instagram page for the class and paste answers to the Amy Arbus questions in the caption section of each image.

- **Assignment 2 (Due 7/4):**
10 images using natural sunlight only can be of anything and can be indoor or outdoor. Use Gudak, Huji, Daze or similar app for 5 of your images and use your standard built-in camera app for the other 5 images
Complete Roland Barthes reading and be ready to discuss
- **Assignment 3 (Due 7/11):**
Object photography and natural/artificial light: 10 images using natural light and 10 images using artificial light and working with objects of choice
- **Assignment 4 (Due 7/18):**
Photographing space: 10 images indoor and 10 images outdoor
- **Assignment 5 (Due 7/25):**
Color studies and self-portraiture: 10 self portraits using color study techniques discussed
- **Assignment 6 (Due: 8/1)**
Bending the rules - Collage and Image Manipulation: 3 manipulated images (using in-camera methods) and 3 collages (using new images and images from previous assignments)
- **FINAL/Assignment 7 (Due 8/10):**
Pt. 1: Create a 15 - 20 image visual essay on a topic/focus of your choice and using any of the techniques learnt throughout the course. These 15 - 20 images will be uploaded to your class-instagram account as per the previous exercises. Then, using all or some of these 20 images, create a compilation. This compilation can be in the form of one or two collages OR you may choose to create a small zine with a combination of text and image.

Pt. 2: Submit a simple portfolio with your best 2 images from every assignment in the class. Instructors will work with students one-on-one towards the end of the course to assist in selecting images for the portfolio.

Course Materials:

The requirements of your project, practice and methods will determine individual additional course material. Main requirement: cell phone with camera.

Students with Documented Disabilities:

Students who may need academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE).

Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable

accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty. Unless the student has a temporary disability, Accommodation letters are issued for the entire academic year. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <https://oae.stanford.edu/>).

Respect for Diversity Statement:

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and situations be well served in this course, that students’ learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity, which may include but not limited to: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, religion, political affiliation, culture, and so on. I acknowledge that there is likely to be a diversity of access to resources among students and plan to support all of you as best as I can. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.

Course Schedule:

<p>WEEK 1:</p> <p>Introductions</p>	<p><u>Mon 6/20:</u></p> <p>Introductions, syllabus overview and Ice breakers</p> <p><u>Weds 6/22:</u></p> <p>Presentation 1: Introduction to cell phone photography</p> <p>Homework - assignment 1:</p> <p>-Create a personal instagram for this class and complete Amy Arbus activity</p> <p>-Watch <i>Tangerine</i> (2015), take at least one screengrab/photo of a scene from the movie, upload it to your insta and write a 100 word caption about what stands out to you most</p>
<p>WEEK 2:</p>	<p><u>Mon 6/27:</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 1 critique/discussion</p>

<p>Basic tech - the phone as a tool vs professional cameras</p>	<p>Brief discussion about <i>Tangerine</i> and related ideas about possibilities of composition/storytelling with cell phone as camera.</p> <p>Presentation/demo 2: the phone vs the professional camera (set up, stabilizing and shooting, lens choice)</p> <p><u>Weds 6/29:</u></p> <p>Presentation/demo 3: editing/shooting with camera apps and editing on laptop (photoshop and lightroom vs apps like VSCO; Working with LUTS and filters; shooting with apps like: Gudak, Huji and Daze</p> <p>Homework - assignment 2: Take loose photos using the Gudak app with natural sunlight - can be indoor or outdoor and artificial light, and complete Roland Barthes reading</p>
<p>WEEK 3:</p> <p>Light: natural and artificial Object Photography</p>	<p><u>Mon 7/4:</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 2 critique/discussion.</p> <p>Presentation/demo 4: natural lighting and DIY artificial lighting strategies with cellphone photo</p> <p><u>Weds 7/6:</u></p> <p>Presentation/demo 5: Object photography (commercial, lifestyle, artistic)</p> <p>IN CLASS EXERCISE - fun and abstract object photography</p> <p>Homework - assignment 3: 10 images using natural light and 10 images using artificial light and working with objects of choice</p>

<p>WEEK 4:</p> <p>Space: Urban/natural landscape and indoor space</p>	<p><u>Mon 7/11</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 3 critique/discussion</p> <p><u>Weds 7/13:</u></p> <p>Presentation/demo 6: photographing space - Urban, landscape/nature or indoor</p> <p>IN CLASS EXERCISE - fun and abstract interiors and exteriors</p> <p>Homework - assignment 4: photographing space - 10 images indoor and 10 images outdoor</p>
<p>WEEK 5:</p> <p>Color Studies Self Portraits</p>	<p><u>Mon 7/18</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 4 critique/discussion</p> <p><u>Weds 7/20</u></p> <p>Presentation/demo 7: color studies/monochromatic photography and self portraiture</p> <p>IN CLASS EXERCISE - create a quick color study - one or two colors to go find/curate and take 2 quick and abstract self-portraits</p> <p>Homework - assignment 5: 10 self portraits using color study techniques discussed</p>
<p>WEEK 6:</p> <p>Breaking the rules</p>	<p><u>Mon 7/25</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 5 critique/discussion</p> <p><u>Weds 7/27:</u></p> <p>Presentation/demo 8: breaking the rules - manipulation of image with in-camera techniques and making digital collages with</p>

	<p>photoshop and apps like Bazzart</p> <p>Homework - assignment 6: 3 manipulated images (using in-camera methods), 3 collages (using new images and images from previous assignments)</p>
<p>WEEK 7:</p> <p>Final assignment</p>	<p><u>Mon 8/1:</u></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT 6 critique/discussion</p> <p>Short presentation/demo 9: making zines and selective portfolios of your work</p> <p><u>Weds 8/3:</u></p> <p>One-on-ones to discuss final assignment idea/visual essay and to discuss/choose your 2 best images from every assignment for your final portfolio</p> <p>Homework - assignment 7: Final assignment and portfolio work</p>
<p>WEEK 8:</p> <p>Final assignment</p>	<p><u>Mon 8/8:</u></p> <p>Guest Speaker/Workshop (tbd)</p> <p><u>Weds 8/10:</u></p> <p>FINAL/ASSIGNMENT 7 critique/discussion and sharing of final visual essays/zine/collages.</p>