

# SM1013: INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Introduction to Photography

### Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

### Course Number

1013

### Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

### College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

GE1129 Creative Photography

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

The course has a lecture and tutorial component.

The lecture aims at enhancing students' knowledge on photographic art to photographic means as a vehicle of expressing oneself. A choice of theme is designed, with well representative world photographers in each lecture to illustrate the theme, the style, the means and the outcome.

Our tutorials aim at development of the technical competence of students, on using the photographic means. We aim at training the students' ability to use the camera and the darkroom to achieve an accomplished works as a self-expressive means. Emphasis is put on the manipulation of the camera, both traditional and digital, the knowledge on film type and the process in printing.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)		
1	Use camera correctly, efficiently creating photo image of good quality		x	
2	Explore the work of master photographers and able to judge good photography from bad photography	x	x	
3	Use digital darkroom technique correct and efficient		x	
4	Compose image through creative means		x	x
5	Transform basic technical competence into a unique style or personal signature		x	x
6	General personal insight as a result of critical interpretation of the subject matter	x	x	

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Group presentation	Classroom discussion and presentation of collected photographs from media	1	30mins/wk
2	Assignment presentation	Classroom discussion and critique of their own individual works	2	1hr/wk
3	Lecture	Showcase of world photographers and their famous work	3	2hrs/wk

4	Workshop	Photographic projects on themes e.g. portrait, still life, landscape and from decisive moment.	4, 5, 6	1hr/wk
5	Workshop	Photo Shooting workshop	1	5hrs
6	Workshop	Digital image control workshop	3	3 hrs

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment 1: Photograph Critique	1, 2	5	-	Yes
2	Assignment 2: Portrait Photography	2, 5, 6	20	-	No
3	Assignment 3: Still Life Photography	3, 5, 6	20	-	No
4	Assignment 4: Moment Photography	4, 5, 6	20	-	No
5	Assignment 5: Landscape Photography	4, 5, 6	15	-	No
6	Assignment 6: Story Telling in Photography	4, 5, 6	20	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

1. Photographic Projects

**Criterion**

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's proactively turning theory into praxis, to transform course material into self-owned authorship.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Work raises questions and instill insights about the process of conception, creative strategization and production
- Innovative exploration by combining knowledge from different disciplines (e.g. mathematics, psychology, physics, anthropology, etc.) to create an inter-disciplinary project
- Efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

**Marginal (D)**

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Marginal ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

**Failure (F)**

- No appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium
- Fail to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Minimal adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

**Additional Information for AR**

All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus****Photographers to be studied:**

Cindy Sherman, Dieter Appelt, Mario Testino, Ellen Von Unwerth, Duane Michals, Robert Frank, Pierre and Gilles, Jan Saudek, Pierre Molinier, Ansel Adams, Andrea Gurksy, Frantisek Drtikol, Boyd Webb, Annie Lebovitz Bruce Weber, Robert Mapplethorpe, Joel Pete Witkins, Herb Ritts

**Camera and Printing Techniques:**

Camera and Lens, Setting the Exposure, The Shutter and Motion, The Aperture and Depth of Field, Lens and Focal Length, Zoom Lenses, Perspective, Macro and Close Up Photography, Film Speed and Grain, Filters, Exposure Meter, Darkroom Process, Developing the negative, Contrast Control, Push Processing, Print making, Dodging and Burning, The Zone System

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	The Ansel Adams Guide: Basic Techniques of photography Book1
2	The Ansel Adams Guide: Basic Techniques of photography Book2
3	Yosemite and the range of light by Ansel Adams
4	The ballad of sexual dependency by Nan Goldin
5	I'll be your mirror by Nan Goldin
6	Black white and things by Robert Frank
7	Flamingo by Robert Frank
8	Robert Frank, thank you by Robert Frank

9	Hold Still- Keep Going by Robert Frank
10	The Americans by Robert Frank
11	The lines of my hand by Robert Frank
12	The Essential Duane Michals by Duane Michals
13	Question Without Answer by Duane Michals
14	Eros & Thanatos by Duane Michals
15	Salute, Walt Whitman by Duane Michals
16	Couples by Ellen Von Unwerth
17	Jan Saudek: jubilations and obsessions by Jan Saudek
18	Jan Saudek : photographs 1987-1997 by Jan Saudek
19	Mario Testino:Portraits by Mario Testino
20	Front Row Back Stage by Mario Testino
21	Any Objection? by Mario Testino
22	Pierre and Gilles by Dan Cameron
23	Joel Pete Witkins by Joel Pete Witkins
24	Cindy Sherman : retrospective by Cindy Sherman
25	Altars/Mapplethorpe by Robert Mapplethorpe
26	Picture by Robert Mapplethorpe
27	Pistils/Mapplethorpe by Robert Mapplethorpe
28	Mapplethorpe by Robert Mapplethorpe
29	Alexander Rodchenko : photography 1924-1954

### Additional Readings

	Title
1	Nil