

# SM1201: STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Studio Photography

### Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

### Course Number

1201

### 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

SM1013 Introduction to Photography or GE1129 Creative Photography

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims at training students to work fully and effectively as a photographer with a set up in a lighting studio. We teach students to read and see light and record it with lighting meters and decide their lighting design for different

themes including portraiture, fashion, still life and magazine photography. Lighting on 'how to shoot' different subjects including portrait, still life, fashion and beauty etc. will be demonstrated. Students will acquaint themselves with the use of flash for both in indoor and outdoor setting, including the daylight studio.

To start with, this course will help students to focus on the practical use of photography in their future career as a professional photographer. In a deeper context, we expect students to interpret and create their style, using studio lighting, backdrop and props. We explore the creative works of successful photographers in a studio context. Assignments are set to test the students' ability in similar creative exercise from 'how to light a still life' to 'how to work with models and art directors'. Trends and visual design in magazine photography will be explored and discussed. Students should plan and implement photographic projects to experiment with different setting and lighting. They also learn to work with various type of models in practical assignments. Upon finishing the course, they should build up competence and confidence to take up shooting jobs and manipulate their creative idea in a photo commission using studio setting and lighting equipment. They can also produce an individual image portfolio and develop their own style.

The course is delivered as a workshop with hands on practice. Course works and assignments are designed on practical grounds to prepare students to handle commissioned photo works in studio environment in all aspect. Students are responsible for the whole creative process, including setting up, lighting practice, model casting, make up and styling and art direction. The course delivers an all round immersive experience to prepare participants to manage their photographic career with a clear artistic direction.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

| CILOs |                                                                                                | Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.) |   |   |   |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1     | Create photo images and work effectively in studio setting                                     |                                          | x | x |   |
| 2     | Manipulate studio lighting with efficiency                                                     |                                          |   | x |   |
| 3     | Apply knowledge of correct methodology to create proper image                                  |                                          | x | x |   |
| 4     | Produce creative images for different subject matter: Portrait/ Fashion and Beauty/ Still Life |                                          |   | x | x |
| 5     | Transform basic technical competence into a unique style or personal signature                 |                                          | x |   | x |
| 6     | Develop sustainable professional connection to the industry                                    |                                          | 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    | Lecture | Showcase of photographic masters and trends created in studio | 1        | 1hr/wk                     |

|   |                      |                                                                                         |         |           |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 2 | Student presentation | Classroom discussion and critique of studio produced images in magazine and print media | 2       | 20mins/wk |
| 3 | Workshop             | Hands on practice in studio set-up and lighting exercise                                | 3       | 1.5hr/wk  |
| 4 | Workshop             | Photographic demonstration on creative techniques with models and art directors         | 4, 5, 6 | 6hrs      |

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

|   | ATs                                       | CILO No. | Weighting (%) | Remarks ("- " for nil entry) | Allow Use of GenAI? |
|---|-------------------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Assignment 1:Portrait Photography         | 1        | 25            | -                            | No                  |
| 2 | Assignment 2:Still Life Photography       | 2        | 25            | -                            | No                  |
| 3 | Assignment 3:Fashion Photography          | 3        | 25            | -                            | No                  |
| 4 | Assignment 4: Studio Photographic Project | 4, 5, 6  | 25            | -                            | 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**

**Studio Technique:** Setting of a studio, working with different types of lamp/ reflector, One Lamp to Multiple Lamp Lighting Technique, 6x6 medium format camera, Polaroid, Digital Back, Use of Filter and Colour Theory

#### **Studies on Photographers:**

- 1) Irving Penn -- Beauty/ Portrait / Still Life
- 2) Victor Skrebneski /Robert Mapplethorpe -- Nude
- 3) Albert Watson/ Herb Ritts/ Peter Lindinburgh --- Portrait/ Fashion
- 4) Nic Knight/ Paolo Roversi ----Fashion, Beauty, Portrait
- 5) Paul Outerbridge/ Karl Blossfeldt/ Irving Penn /Mapplethorpe --- Still Life
- 6) Avedon /Arnold Newman --- Portrait, Magazine Photography

#### **Reading List**

#### **Compulsory Readings**

| Title |                                                     |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Books in City University Library, Reserved Section: |
| 2     | On Photographers                                    |
| 3     | Studio / Paolo Roversi                              |
| 4     | Libretto/ Paolo Roversi                             |
| 5     | Nudi / Paolo Roversi                                |
| 6     | Skrebneski: the first fifty year                    |
| 7     | Paul Outerbridge : 1896-1958                        |
| 8     | Still Life: Irving Penn Photographs                 |
| 9     | A Career in Photography : Irving Penn               |

|    |                                          |
|----|------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Nic Knight /Nic Knight                   |
| 11 | Mapplethorpe/ Robert Mapplethorpe        |
| 12 | Pistil / Robert Mapplethorpe             |
| 13 | Picture /Robert Mapplethorpe             |
| 14 | Mad Dogs /Albert Watson                  |
| 15 | Cyclops / Albert Watson                  |
| 16 | Arnold Newman / essay by Philip Brookman |
| 17 | Karl Blossfeldt / Hans Christian Adam    |

### Additional Readings

|    | Title                                                                                                                                        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | LIGHTING FOR GLAMOUR / Steve Bavister                                                                                                        |
| 2  | PROVOCATIVE SHOTS / Alex Larg                                                                                                                |
| 3  | STUDIO PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY                                                                                                                  |
| 4  | LIGHTING BLACK AND WHITE SHOTS                                                                                                               |
| 5  | INNOVATIO /IMAGINATION 50 years of Polaroid                                                                                                  |
| 6  | <a href="http://skrebneskiphotographs.com/home.html">skrebneskiphotographs.com/home.html</a>                                                 |
| 7  | <a href="http://www.albertwatson.net">www.albertwatson.net</a>                                                                               |
| 8  | <a href="http://www.paoloroversi.com">www.paoloroversi.com</a>                                                                               |
| 9  | <a href="http://www.showstudio.com">www.showstudio.com</a>                                                                                   |
| 10 | <a href="http://www.mapplethorpe.org">www.mapplethorpe.org</a>                                                                               |
| 11 | <a href="http://www.irvingpenn.com">www.irvingpenn.com</a>                                                                                   |
| 12 | <a href="http://www.richardavedon.com">www.richardavedon.com</a>                                                                             |
| 13 | <a href="http://www.masters-of-photography.com/N/newman/newman.html">www.masters-of-photography.com/N/newman/newman.html</a>                 |
| 14 | <a href="http://www.masters-of-photography.com/B/blossfeldt/blossfeldt.html">www.masters-of-photography.com/B/blossfeldt/blossfeldt.html</a> |
| 15 | <a href="http://www.peterlindbergh.com">www.peterlindbergh.com</a>                                                                           |