ART 496 Topics: Digital Photography

Instructor: Professor Randy Simmons
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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: Introduces the skills, techniques and applications needed to capture, process and manipulate digital photographs. Develops an understanding of photography as a fine art medium. Introduces students to the use of the digital camera and its controls.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:
KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:
1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:
Use controls common to SLR and digital cameras and how they affect image capture, exposure and the creative process.
Transfer pictures from camera to computer.
Use basic elements of digital imaging software (this will differ from individual to individual).
Demonstrate fundamental skills in the craft of color management.
Demonstrate the initial development of a personal visual vocabulary and a voice with which

to express concepts and content.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:
The Digital Camera – Image Capture
   Hardware
   Exposure controls
   Focus controls
   Camera Menu Options
The Digital Darkroom
   Downloading images to the computer
   Sorting, filing and preliminary image processing
   File formats
   Image adjustments
   Color theory
   Software Tools
The Art of Photography
   Composition
   Scale
   Portrait photography
   Black and white versus color
   Subject matter
   Context
   Narrative photography
   Output and Presentation
   Creating a photo book

Final Outcome:
Students will take a minimum of 36 photographs per assignment documenting the places, people and events during the Italy experience.
Students should use their camera daily. Things to photograph should include anything in the culture that you find interesting. I want to avoid us taking pictures of each other for assignments.
During class time, we will go over the above outline of technical terminology and usage of such and review the photos taken on each other's laptop for a group/class critique.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: This course does not fulfill general education requirements.

6. Required Readings and Materials:
Readings
None. But have a copy of your camera manual. It's best to also have this as a PDF file on your laptop.

Video: ***Getting the Most From Your Digital SLR***. I'll post it on youtube. You will need to watch this video before landing at our KIIS site and refer back to it when necessary. There will be a short answer test covering this material during the final class period.

Materials

*   Digital SLR or point and shoot with manual override. Memory cards and cables appropriate for your camera. I am more familiar with Canon products.
*   A smart phone with camera capabilities and a camera/photography application.
*   An extra memory card 8G recommended
*   8 gig or larger jumpdrive/thumbdrive/portable drive
*   Powersupply or batteries for your camera. An extra battery is always a good thing.
*   Laptop (I am an Apple computer user. If you have Windows, I am minimal help.)
*   Tripod (optional)
*   Extra lenses are optional (for this trip, I'd recommend simply staying with your traditional 18-55mm lens)
*   Your own editing software. At the least, the software that came with your camera.
*   Adobe Photoshop CC is the best. You may be able to get a trial period subscription.

Graded Assignments:

1/Extreme Closeup/Textures: Take a series of photos that are very close-up to the subject, abstracting the image to a degree. Textures take on high importance for this topic. Focus is crucial. Choose four and have ready for a group critique. Shoot at least 36 photos. Pick your top four.

2/Human Portrait: Create a series of four photos that is a portrait of another person. Consider view-point, background clutter, focus, lighting. F-STOPS ARE IMPORTANT! Shoot at least 36 photos. Pick your top four. The portrait does not include statues, stuff that exists as art already and animals and other people on this KIIS trip.

3/Shadows/Reflections: Create a series of at least four photos that utilize shadows as the subject matter or are reflections. Shoot at least 36 photos. Pick your top four. What time of day are you shooting? What is your light source? You can mix and match: 2 shadows, 2 reflections or 3 shadows, 1 reflection or 3 reflections and one shadow or four shadows, and so forth. The shadow or reflection must be the subject of images and not a byproduct.

4/Landscape and/or Architecture: Create landscapes, cityscapes/architecture with a total of at least four photos for final product. Consider time of day, foreground, middle and background. Shoot at least 36 photos. Pick your top four. Challenge yourself to consider subjects that are not landmarks necessarily.

5/Cell Phone Photography:
Open subject matter, photographs taken from your smartphone. Hipstamatic is my favorite app for the iphone and I highly recommend it. Shoot at least 36 images. Then, choose your top four. These can be manipulated with your smartphone application.

All images are to be shot only during this KIIS program. All assignments are designed to focus on the culture. Avoid tourists' shots. Avoid photographing other students for class assignments.

For each assignment, you will put the final four images along with the other 36 candidate photos on a jump drive to turn in to me for a grade. Put each assignment into its own folder and within that folder, you will put your top four for each assignment. ***Those four should be edited and considered the best shots.***

You will turn in your thumb-drive to me on the last day of the KIIS program/the last day of photo class.

GRADING CRITERIA
Grading will be based on overall performance/improvement, class work/editing and attendance. Work for this class is defined as in-class photography exercises and outside of class photography assignments.

A= Project requirements fulfilled above and beyond the call of duty, excellent craftsmanship: composition (use of compositional concepts such as focal point, rule of thirds), color saturation, value scale, focus. Projects turned in on time.
B= Project requirements met. Above average work. Piece could use fine tuning but overall good. Craftsmanship, composition good. Images could use adjustment in imaging software.
C= Project requirements barely met. Average work. Not the most exciting photos. Compositions flat.
D= Projects started, not finished. Minimal effort plan being used.
E= Projects not started or not finished.

Grades based equally on the five assignments and one quiz from the YouTube video given during this trip for a total of six equal grades.

8. Attendance Policy:
KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

9. Disability Accommodation:
KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/ early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation

letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

10. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:
Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/ at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/; additional Title IX resources can be found here https://www.wku.edu/eoo/brochure2019update.pdf.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.