

# Digital Still Photography for Non-Majors

FALL 2020-21 **FILM 165-110**

Class number: 16751

**ONLINE - ASYNC** 09/09/2020 - 11/24/2020

**Chelsea Goodwin Cossu** MFA

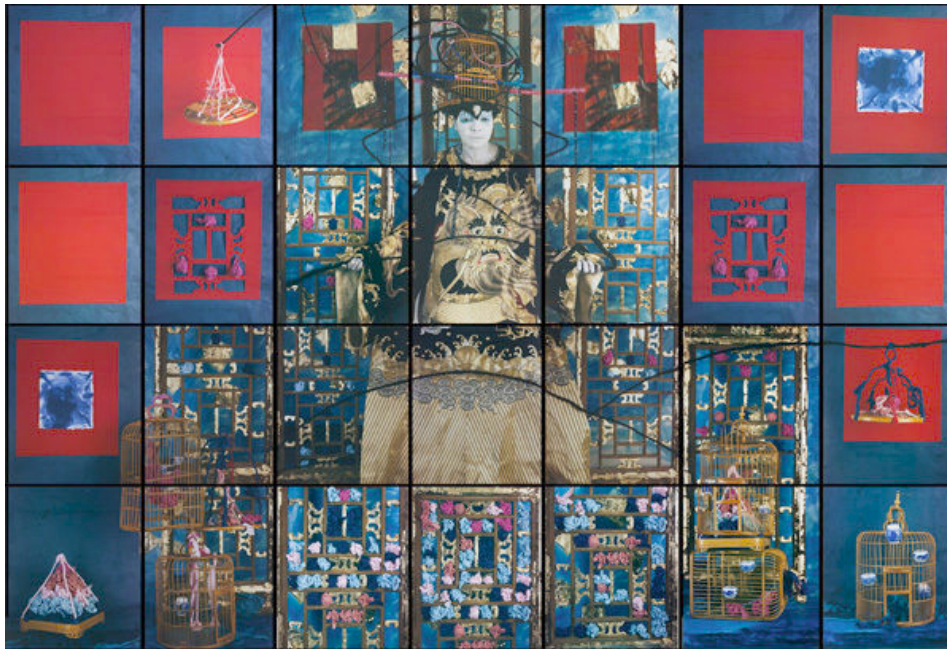
**OFFICE HOURS:** Zoom meeting 3:30-4:30

Tuesdays and Thursdays (details last page)

Or anytime by a thoughtful email to [ccossu@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:ccossu@cdm.depaul.edu)

**Important Course Registration, Drop, and Withdraw Dates:** <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

**1st class:** Wednesday September 09, 2020 **Last Class:** Tuesday November 17, 2020 **Final Exam Date:** FINAL PROJECT in class.



This course is an introduction to the **history** and **aesthetics** of **still photography** and the concept of photography as a descriptive and interpretive artistic medium.

*#FIRSTDAYFIRSTIMAGE: Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Finding Balance, 2018. 28 Polaroid prints, each mounted on aluminum.*

Students studying photography in this context will discover relationships between individual photographers' choices and their own understanding of the language of the medium. Discussions of photographic theory and application across disciplines and in various contexts will enrich the meaning of this visual language, and will deepen the understanding of the role of still photography.

Students will learn the fundamental concepts necessary to shoot, edit, manipulate, and print digital still photographs. Also, students will acquire the knowledge needed to analyze and critique existing work.

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### **Students will be required to use their own\* digital still cameras for this course.**

\*It's best to learn to use the tools you have. I suggest a camera you like, and want to use, even if it's a cell phone camera. I also suggest you use the same all quarter. It's probably worthwhile to use MANUAL EXPOSURE settings if your camera has them. If not, we can easily approximate it using an app such as Afterlight.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:** What to Expect...

There is no secret to becoming a great photographer, besides practice. You will be expected to make lots of tests, experiment, and RE-SHOOT.

Students should be ready to participate by making images outside of class, and always having them on a hard drive in class, ready for discussion! You will need to spend significant time outside of class to shoot, reshoot, and work with your images. You'll need to be aware of the weather, and what surprise impact it may have on your work in this class. Make time to use the computer lab outside of class.

Consider the number of photos you've already made on your camera phone/camera camera/scanner/surveillance drone/screen-capture and imagine how many your future self may have. You'll need some method to handle all of that data - We'll lay the groundwork.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Students will demonstrate their process, and examine the processes of classmates.
- Students will select and use the settings on their own camera and in postproduction software to alter photographs.
- Students will write about historical and contemporary photographic practices.
- Students will edit and produce their own photographic series.

### **Course Management System:**

**DEPAUL D2L (also where you will view any zoom recordings)** <https://d2l.depaul.edu>

**CDM has instructions** for downloading the software you need this quarter.

computer labs have software to use outside of class however these may not be available with COVID-19 restrictions. These labs (and others) offer Photoshop CC on PC or Mac operating systems in Lincoln Park and Loop Campuses.

**Software:** We are currently using Adobe Creative Cloud (abbreviated CC and available in all labs). We concentrate on ADOBE PHOTOSHOP, and ADOBE BRIDGE, and refer to ADOBE LIGHTROOM.

Occasionally I'll supply a playlist of Supplemental instructional videos are to be viewed at

**LYNDA.COM** which is now offered through LinkedIn- Depaul has a subscription for all students and faculty.

**TUTOR** Tutoring Center is usually on the Lobby Level of the CDM building. NOT available for Summer Quarter. Check COVID-19 updates.

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## TEXTS & RESOURCES:

**Required ACCOUNTS:** your depaul email, and

### Required Texts

\_\_\_ **LIGHT+LENS:PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

PUBLISHER: **TAYLOR** ISBN: **9780240818276**

\_\_\_ Your personal Camera Manual. Find it online if you no longer have it.

\_\_\_ COURSE RESERVE Articles (.pdf Posts on D2L)

### Optional Texts, You'll encounter with me and in further study

\_\_\_ <http://www.dpbestflow.org/project-overview>

\_\_\_ Martin Evening's Photoshop for Photographers CC

\_\_\_ Criticizing Photographs: an Introduction to Understanding Images ED5 by Terry Barrett

### Other Requirements

\_\_\_ Digital Camera: this should be **a camera which allows you to manually control exposures, but if not we'll find a workaround... such as the app Afterlight**. Please try to use the same camera all quarter.

\_\_\_ Two data cards

\_\_\_ USB thumb drives – minimum the same size as your SD or CF card (they fail, have a back up!)

\_\_\_ or External Hard Drive \*\*\*if you use a mac at home and a pc at school or vice versa you may have formatting issues. A thumb drive alleviates this problem.

\_\_\_ Card reader or USB cord for camera

\_\_\_ Tripod or remote grip (nice but not required!)

## WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE ON D2L

**Expect assignment and information drops on evenings of Thursdays and Tuesdays and to meet with me for office hours if needed Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.**

It is expected that students participate in class by reading, following the NEWS posts for guidance in completing the weekly content and assignments.

Please don't hesitate when asking pertinent questions, and don't forget to contribute willingly to our discussions in the classroom with a positive attitude. Please be open to inevitable disagreement or discomfort from encountering the unknown. We may very well be exploring uncharted territory here!

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Here is a checklist of my expectations:

\_\_\_ ONLINE through **discussion** forum, asking great questions, finishing and submitting your materials in time to complete assignments and participate in class activities.

\_\_\_ constantly making photos outside of class, and having all of those images ready downloaded on a hard drive to show at any time I ask to see your work. Aim for THOUSANDS of images - good and bad, and make sure you keep them all, they help us solve problems, and look for patterns! You'll be turning in at least one "contact sheet" proving your work.

\_\_\_ planning ahead to create something of your own for the final project. Be in touch with your interests and what you see that inspires you or completely dissuades you!

\_\_\_ SCHOLARLY searching out inspiration in other forms, and keeping notes or images about your research encounters.

\_\_\_ Visiting Museums, Galleries, Libraries (there are so many accessible public recordings from all programming cancelled by COVID-19 restrictions! I'll be sharing links from MOCP, FILTERPHOTO, and elsewhere!)

### **Assignments and Discussions on D2L make up 100% of your course points.**

**All of these** are designed for allowing you the best framework for your own **experimentation and growth**.

- \_\_\_ **Scavenger Hunt Process** Exercise **5%**
- \_\_\_ **Scavenger Hunt (final)** Assignment **5%**
- \_\_\_ **Exposure Test** Exercise **5%**
- \_\_\_ **Self Portrait** Assignment **10%**
- \_\_\_ **Tools Test** Exercise **5%**
- \_\_\_ **Time** Assignment **10%**
- \_\_\_ **About that Photographer WRITTEN** Assignment **10%**
- \_\_\_ **Abstracted Light** Assignment **10%**
- \_\_\_ **#Labyrinthine** FINAL Assignment and WRITTEN statement **20%**

### **DISCUSSION**

**Week 1 - What's happening in photography**

**Week 2 - How we use and misuse, understand and misunderstand, still images**

**Week 3 - What trends we like and notice, and where, and how to make it happen**

**Week 4 - The analog or how all of our digital tools are named and influenced**

**Week 5 - What about that article I posted...**

**For weeks 6-10 I will host and invitation to Zoom discussions**, I'll send a survey and make them according to your availabilities, and post the recordings. I hope to have at least three students attend each. If you cannot make it, you won't be penalized, but if you can, you stand to gain so much from participating!

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### Grading

#### All undergraduate students

Students in all undergraduate classes, with the exception of those in CEO cohort programs, may opt to change the grading basis for any or all of their courses to Pass/D/Fail. A grade of Pass (P) will indicate that the student's work met expectations for a grade of at least C-. Work that would merit a grade of D+ or D in the traditional grading basis would still earn a D+ or D. Work that does not merit a passing grade will earn a Fail (F). The Pass/D/Fail grading option may apply to any graduation requirement, including courses in the major, minor, Liberal Studies Program or open electives <https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/faqs/Pages/classes-academics-students.aspx>

Grades are posted in D2L using the scale below. Assignments have a rubric to distribute points. A cumulative and experiential course means that moving on requires you to have mastered all of the foundational work done in exercises and assignments before. Missing just one question or instruction on the pass/fail exercise (especially because we can look up the answers, or fill in information verbatim from the lecture or even recording of the lecture) will be marked as failure. However, my intention isn't to penalize, just to move us together through the material. The spirit of our course is that any experimentation should be tried, and tried again! Remember that ASSIGNMENTS made in good faith, and turned in on time, can be redone and submitted for reconsideration!

Those of you who deserve an A+ will have an amazing portfolio piece!	A 100-95	A- 94-91
B+ 90-88	B 87-85	B- 84-81
C+ 80-77	C 76-73	C- 72-69
D+ 68-65	D 64-61	F 60-0

### Course Policies

**Specific to my class:** Work for this course will be produced in the quarter you are enrolled. Please try to use the same camera all quarter, using the most manual settings possible, with the flash off for exposure exercise assignments.

#### **Assignment and Exercises:**

**Assignments** ask you to demonstrate your skills with photographic images and written texts.

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**Exercises** are instructions to be followed, step by step workflow worksheets, questions to answer about your own process and equipment, intended to enforce a process of gathering information, practicing skills. Please understand that these are meant to be challenging, but provide a catalyst for growth, doing them, and redoing them will help!

Explanations of each are posted as PDFs on D2L,

Check the date as well as the time due. The cut off time for online D2L submissions is computerized and will cut off at exactly the time posted – this may be different for different assignments. It is your responsibility to check for each assignment to be sure your work is submitted on time. These assignments and exercises are designed to simultaneously exercise technical skills such as file management, post production best practices, and Photoshop editing skills, while expanding the critical understanding of photography, and honing a personal system of visual expression.

Every assignment will utilize a new skill in towards a **cumulative** knowledge of professional standards in imaging. Students will be challenged to think conceptually about their own visual development in a broader context of historical practices.

Again, the lessons in the class are cumulative, and skills discussed in reference to a previous assignment will be used again and again without special instruction. Students will complete a final assignment – a project of their own choosing using the skills developed in throughout the course. This is an individually proposed final project of sufficient scope to demonstrate competency in technical skills and conceptual development.

**Assignments are never to be turned in via email.** Any assignment emailed to me without exceptional invitation will be ignored.

Each assignment will be completed and posted on D2L and /or your blog as directed with parameters directed in each assignment. Each output method has specific technical requirements. If those requirements are not met, points will be deducted.

All files should be named with a consistent naming convention all quarter, including at least the date and only for the files you turn in, add your name. CDM Naming Convention is different. You'll be altering this slightly, and turning in work which demonstrates a longstanding workflow best practice to be put to use long after your days as a student are over.

**IN MY CLASS USE THIS EXAMPLE FILE NAME: Cossu20200920\_projectname\_0034.jpg** This includes my LAST NAME, a date in YYYYMMDD format, a name you choose, a sequence number, from your shoot, not one you assign. It makes sense that you'll add your name to only select files you're turning in.

**Late Work/ Missing Work/ Just Work:** I will not accept late work, unless you have a documented excused absence.

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However, any **assignment** you attempt in good-faith will be able to be reconsidered! This policy is for assignments, not exercises, exams, surveys, or quizzes. Exercises are an effort to outline technical parameters and you will correct these as you go. I urge you to re-do as much as possible!

**I have a flexible, heath and humanitarian approach to working with you in completing your work. Please stay in communication so we can meet a mutually agreed upon solution. Absences Under TYPICAL**

**CIRCUMSTANCES ARE:** Please submit your documentation to the Dean of Students to notify me that your absence is excused. Missed course work must be made up within a mutually agreed upon time frame. *Excessive Absences, Tardiness, or Leaving Early* will negatively impact your participation points. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for seeking the information you missed, available via link on D2L. You may also consider visiting my office hours to ask questions.

**Tardiness:** we're asynchronous, but please, if your have an unexpected circumstance which means your work will be late, stay in communication so we can work out an alternative situation.

**Socializing:** Your class tag is **#FILM165\_AU20** I like to use Instagram **@circacirca\_chelseacossu**

**Email: New students and returning students must use the DePaul email address. Information about this may be found here.**

You may always feel free to use email to ask questions, and expect a response within 1 work day. If you don't get a response, kindly email again, there may be a problem. Please use reason when considering the timestamp on your email. If you sent it late in the evening and we have class first thing in the morning, there's a chance I won't see it in time.

These tips will help:

- Please Do use a clear and concise subject. For example: FILM165- (Always including the section #\_\_\_\_) and your questions about class.
- Do Not reply to emails I send the entire class.
- Instead, make a new one, with a pertinent subject line.
- Please Do include links to blog posts, and full explanation of what I can help with.
- Please Do include a screenshot or capture if you need to show me something (Mac: Command,Shift,4 draw a box around it and it will be on your desktop. PC: Printscreen key and paste into text)
- Do Not abuse email for submitting any other images, homework or assignments on time or late.

Sometimes email isn't the best way to communicate. If so, I look forward to meeting during my office hours.

**Attitude:** A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer.

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If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

**Civil Discourse:** DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be [Socially Responsible Leaders](#). It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

**Cell Phones/On Call:** If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in a discreet manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

**Changes to Syllabus:** This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

**Online Course Evaluations:** Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Academic Policies :** All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>



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**Incomplete Grades:** An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

**Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns:** Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>

**Students with Disabilities:** Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible. Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.

### **ZOOM OFFICE HOURS INVITATION Details:**

Every week on Tue, Thu, 20 occurrence(s) Beginning Sep 10, 2020 03:30 PM

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Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [https://depaul.zoom.us/j/98766832429?](https://depaul.zoom.us/j/98766832429?pwd=cmUwUmRydGxKS3NtQVRpQ1ZPbXlYdz09)

**pwd=cmUwUmRydGxKS3NtQVRpQ1ZPbXlYdz09**

**Password: PhotoMeet**