



Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

2026 Winter Session

APPH 120 Digital Photography

Course Outline

Course Code: APPH 120

Instructor: Olivia Mikolai Ridge

Home Institution: School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: oridge@saic.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours:

This course will have 60 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour T A discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions, 8-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

This course is a rigorous introduction to digital photography and its workflows, featuring the digital camera, digital image file development from camera RAW, and the presentation of photographs in an organized body of work. Building on the lectures and material, this studio course invites students to construct and manipulate photographic form and meaning in their personal projects. Alongside advancing technical proficiency, we will investigate the concepts, aesthetics, production, and history of photography. Assignments, lectures, and readings progressively build on each other to address contemporary theoretical issues surrounding digital imaging and the malleable relationships between the viewer, the image, and “reality”.

Course Objectives:

Students will learn to:

- Use their DSLR camera to create technically sound images and as creative tools for expressing ideas.
- Use Adobe Lightroom as an organizational, corrective, and creative tool.



- Develop skills in post-production: editing, image resolution, file size, color management, etc.
- Learn to create, edit, and sequence a body of photographic work.
- Use the principles of visual communication to express their ideas in their images.
- Explore different genres of photography through practice assignments and projects.
- Examine the use of photographs within the culture at large informed by histories of the medium and contemporary practices.

Required Course Materials:

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- External hard drive – suggested capacity 1TB (500 GB minimum)
- A computer with Adobe Lightroom Classic
- A DSLR or mirrorless camera with manual exposure controls
- A SD memory card (minimum 16GB) & card reader

Required Textbook:

All readings will be provided by instructor. The reading list includes:

The Photograph as Contemporary Art by Charlotte Cotton

The Racial Bias Built into Photography by Sarah Lewis

The Art Institute of Chicago's Field Guide to Photography & Media

Grading & Evaluation:

Projects include technical criteria, demonstrated effort, and conceptual execution= 50% of grade

Discussion participation + lecture/reading reflections = 35%

Project Proposals & Final Statements= 15%

Note: This 4-week course is fast paced. It is essential to stay on track with the course schedule and all assignments. Each lecture will be followed by a written reflection, discussion, exercise, or quiz. Extensions for projects will NOT be granted unless in extreme circumstances, i.e. death or dismemberment. It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor and negotiate an extension in those situations.

These are the basic expectations of the course to receive credit:



- Take a minimum of 100 photos per week by spending 6-12 hours photographing outside of class each week.
- Shoot all of your photographs in Manual Mode as RAW files on your manual camera.
- Complete all projects, peer reviews, weekly exercises, and reading assignments.
- If you are struggling or missing a class, it is your responsibility to reach out to me for help.

Projects:

There are 3 major studio projects in this course. Each is designed to focus on a different aspect of photography.

Project 1 – Creative Portrait

For this project, you will create a body of work to describe someone, something, or someplace creatively utilizing and reimagining the principles of representation and portraiture. The subject can be yourself, a friend/family member, a stranger, an animal, a place, etc.

Project #2 – Constructed Tableaux

For this assignment, you will construct a photographic scene or tableaux in which you are responsible for imagining, arranging, rearranging, building, organizing, or setting up everything in the frame.

Project 3 – Artist Presentation & Walk a Mile

This project assignment begins with research on one photographic or lens-based artist. Each student will organize research on an artist who makes notable use of the photographic medium. Students will create a project inspired by the aesthetics, concept, process, or content explored by this artist.

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A+ : 96 - 100	A : 91 - 95
B+ : 86 - 90	B : 81 - 85
C+ : 76 - 80	C : 71 - 75
D+ : 66 - 70	D : 60 - 65
F : 0 - 59	
Pa : Pass	Fa : Fail

Course Schedule



Week 1:

- 1 – Introduction + Supplies + Course Goals + What is Photography? A Brief History
- 2 – Camera Basics + Exposure Triangle – Aperture, Shutter, and ISO + Lighting
- 3 – Introducing Creative Portrait from Charlotte Cotton's The Photograph as Contemporary
- 4 – Lightroom Classic Introduction + Importing RAW + Developing basics + Equivalent Exposures

Week 2:

- 1 – Portraiture & Representation: Examining the Subject/Photographer Relationship
- 2 – Site & Place: Landscape Practices
- 3 – Lightroom Advanced Developing + White Balance + Layer Masks
- 4 – Introducing Constructed Tableaux

Week 3:

- 1 – Creative Portrait due + Materiality/Collage Practices
- 2 – Introducing Walk a Mile: Rip Off/Homage
- 3 – Conducting Artist Research Demo
- 4 – Long Exposure and Techniques of Night Photography + Constructed Tableaux due

Week 4:

- 1 – Artist Presentations due + Commercial / Editorial Photography
- 2 – Color Theory & the Recent Histories of Color Photography
- 3 – Work in Progress Peer Review + Advanced Digital Image Foundations
- 4 – Advancing the practice – New Frontiers of Photography
- 5 – Walk a Mile Due (no lecture)