LISS1020 Introduction to Digital Photography

Module Syllabus

Module leader: Alan Oliver
Email: a.oliver@leeds.ac.uk
Module summary
This module will give students a basic understanding of how a digital camera works. They will learn how to compose a photographic image and how to expose a photograph correctly. They will also gain critical insight through the study of existing photographic images. Students will produce a portfolio of their own images which will be supported by a reflective log. They will be expected to use their own digital camera for this module.

Objectives
On completion of this module, students should be able to:
- demonstrate a familiarity with the basic concepts, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of digital photography;
- interpret and evaluate the underlying concepts and principles of an existing photographic image;
- demonstrate an ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches in creating a photographic image for a specific application;
- communicate the results of their work; demonstrate an awareness of the professional practice of photography.

Learning outcomes
Students will gain:
- familiarity with the basic concepts, practical competencies and techniques which are standard features of digital photography;
- the ability to interpret and evaluate the underlying concepts and principles of an existing photographic image;
- the ability to evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches in creating a photographic image for a specific application and communicate results;
- awareness of the professional practice of photography.

Teaching methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delivery type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Length hours</th>
<th>Student hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-line Learning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private study hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Contact hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total hours (100hr per 10 credits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private study
- Taking photographs
- Basic reading for class preparation
- Supporting journal for portfolio
Methods of assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>% of formal assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reflective log</td>
<td>550 - 650 words plus images</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>6 images (submitted electronically) plus supporting journal</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late Penalties
University rules on penalties for late submission of coursework require 5 full marks to be deducted for each calendar day that passes after the date of required submission. If coursework is not submitted by the end of 14 calendar days following the prescribed deadline, a grade/mark of zero will be returned for that component.

Module outline

Pre-arrival task: Produce a self-portrait (which doesn’t have to be a picture of your face)

Week One

Monday
- Review pre-work (self-portrait)
- Introduce the camera and how it works
- Discuss composition with reference to the work of Cindy Sherman
- Self-directed work based on the theme “a significant event”

Tuesday
- Review self-directed work
- Introduce colour
- Discuss landscape photography with reference to the work of Joe Cornish
- Introduce reflective log and portfolio assessments
- Self-directed work, 2 landscape photographs.

Wednesday
- Review landscape photographs
- Discuss exposure and creating atmosphere
- Self-directed work- evocation of atmosphere

Thursday
- Review self-directed work
- Discuss the juxtaposition of people and objects in the work of Martin Parr
- Introduce self-directed work to be completed during field trip

Friday
- Full day field trip to [Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#)
Week 2

Monday
- Review self-directed work
- Recap exposure
- Introduce artificial lighting and depth of field
- Research brief: promotional shot

Tuesday
- Studio workshop
- Produce promotional shots
- Set self-directed work to be completed during field trip
- Afternoon field trip to the National Media Museum

Wednesday
- Review promotional shots
- Discussion of contemporary issues in photography

Thursday
- Review learning to date
- Assessments are due by 5pm