

Photography I

Class: ARTS 2356 Section 001

Basic Course Information

When we meet:

Monday & Wednesday
from 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM

Where we meet:

CAB321

Professor: Nathan R. Talamantez, MFA

Email: ntalamantez@tamusa.edu

Office Hours: M/W 9:30 AM -10:40 AM, Friday appointments only

Department Offering the Course: Arts & Humanities

Prerequisites: None

Materials Required

Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop Subscription

Functioning Laptop Computer

DSLR Camera Canon Rebel T7 or similar (provided)

Tripod (provided)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to photography for the general student and assumes no prior experience in photography. Through the development of critical thinking and technical skills, students will learn how to visualize, create, and evaluate photographic images. Techniques covered will include basics of camera operation, digital photo editing, photographic genres, and introduction to critical and theoretical practices. In addition to studio practices such as technical demonstrations, studio assignments, group critiques, and collaborative assignments we will also engage with photographic theory through readings, presentations, and discussions.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course student will:

- Be familiar with basic camera operation including shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, focus, etc.
- Understand photographic genres and their conventions.
- Be able to work collaboratively in the production and exhibition of photographic images.
- Be able to participate in constructive criticism and implement those critiques in their own work.
- Have a basic understanding of the history of the photographic medium.
- Have a basic understanding of the critical discourse and theory formed by and around the photographic images.
- Expand critical discourse around how images operate in and shape societies.

Course Assignments

Weekly Photography Assignments: 50%

Each week the class will be assigned a project that focuses on a specific technical skill within a conceptual and art historical framework. Each project will require a minimum number of images taken, a one-on-one meeting with the instructor to provide feedback and small group critiques where students will share their final photographs and learn to describe them in conceptual and formal terms.

Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop

DSLR Camera

Canon Rebel T7 or similar (provided)

Tripod (provided)

Notes: 10%

Each week we will discuss a relevant artist or artistic movement to lay the conceptual and formal groundwork for each project. As a part of this discussion students will be given a link to a video to watch and a collection of books to use in their research. Students will be required to submit a page of notes, 300 words minimum, in response to the video, books and other insights from our classroom discussions, through the Turnitin platform in blackboard. These notes will be due before beginning the week's project and must be submitted by the deadline for credit.

3 Mastery Projects: 35%

Starting week 10, students will complete three larger projects designed to exhibit student's mastery of photographic techniques, conceptual thinking through images and use the camera a tool to leverage the creative process.

Attendance: 5%

Attendance will be taken every day. Full credit for attendance will require a student to arrive on time, prepared to work and stay for the duration of the class.

Grading & Attendance

Work is based on completion and engagement. You do not need prior knowledge of art and photography to do well in this class. You will need to participate in classroom activities, complete classwork on time, show the ability to use feedback productively, and demonstrate growth over the course of the semester.

Grading Scale:

A.....	100 - 90
B.....	89 - 80
C.....	79 - 70
D.....	69 - 60
F.....	59 and Below

Late Work:

- For the first half of the semester, projects will be accepted for full credit any time before midterm as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort. In the second half of the semester, projects will be accepted for full credit at any time before our final class meeting (the last class before finals week), as long as the student is demonstrating a continued effort.*
- Time sensitive assignments, such as Notes, or work that require timely instructor feedback will not be accepted after the due date.

- NO EXTRA CREDIT - Complete the that is assigned.

*Continued effort is defined as ongoing communication with the instructor and evidence of work being completed. Students will lose points for work that is incomplete, does not address the requirements of the project or does not demonstrate skills and concepts presented in class whether the student was absent.

Attendance:

- Every absence will affect your final grade. I do not distinguish between excused and un excused absences, except in very specific instances as supported by TAMUSA attendance policies.
- You will be able to accrue 4 absences without beyond the loss of attendance points.
- After 4 absences, each additional absence may drop your final grade by up to 5%.
- Students that have 7 or more absences are advised to drop this course to protect your GPA.
- You are only permitted a total of 6 drops without penalty in your undergraduate career. The 7th drop will be calculated as an F in your GPA. Be cautious about casually dropping classes.
- Arriving late or leaving class will affect your attendance score.
- Working on other class materials or not actively participating may be considered an absence.
- If you have multiple absences, missing assignments and are not responding to emails about your class standing, you may get dropped from the course for non-participation.

Basic Expectations:

Standards of Campus Conduct: Members of the University community assume full responsibility for compliance with Texas laws and for proper self-conduct. In addition to behaving according to the ordinary conventions of adult society, members of the University community are bound by university rules, procedures, administrative procedures, handbooks, catalogs and other university approved directives conducive to creating a positive campus atmosphere and general academic well-being.

The code for student conduct is set forth in the Student Handbook. Specific attention is given there to rules addressing academic misconduct, hazing, sexual harassment and substance abuse, including alcohol abuse and the illicit use of drugs. Grievance procedures and guidelines for sanctions are outlined.

When students engage in behavior that the professor deems to be disruptive to the learning environment of the class- room the professor will first verbally prompt the student to stop their behavior, if the behavior is especially gratuitous or persistent the professor may ask the student to leave the classroom (resulting in an absence), or drop the student from the course.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to do their own course work. Simple cases of first offense cheating or plagiarism by an individual student may be handled by the instructor after consultation with the department chair. The student is usually confronted with the evidence in private and advised of the penalty to be assessed. The evidence will be retained for at least one full year. For more serious cases, such as those involving repeated offenses, conspiracy with other students or the theft and selling of examination questions, a report should be made by the instructor via the department chair and college dean to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the instructor may report any form of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Please review the Student Handbook for a complete description of the process.

AI Policy: No Use of Generative AI Permitted

ARTS 2356 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity. Any assignment that is flagged for the use of AI will receive a zero.

Organizations, Accommodations, Resources, and Policies:

Art Club

Art Club invites members to develop their individual art practices by expanding their interest in different art forms and experimenting with different art mediums. Anyone with any level of artistic experience can join, and we encourage members to get out of their comfort zones and be inspired by other art club members and the San Antonio visual arts community.

The club can be contacted through JagSync: <https://jagsync.tamusa.edu/or-ganization/art>

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

This course (Drawing) assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence

AI tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Re-habilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210.

You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit the office at <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center:

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/student-counseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option

to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://ta-musa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here.

Download the SafeZone App at: <https://safezoneapp.com/>, or for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. For non-emergencies call (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Ser-vices tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral at [https:// www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html](https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210) 784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Hand-book-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Important Fall 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes

Dates	Event
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.