

PGY2442C Figure/Ground (photography)

3 Credits

Meeting Hours: 6 Hrs. T/R Periods 8-10

Location: FAD329

Instructor: Paden DeVita

Office Hours: T/R 2:00-3:00PM

Email: prdevita@gmail.com

Course Description

This course will explore various approaches in photographic two-dimensional compositional methods through various techniques in time/motion, creative flat-bed scanning, digital manipulation and light studies. Students will learn to apply strong critical and visual analysis of these methods and techniques through a practical understanding of constructing and dissecting the 2-D plane. Along side a technical application of photographic skills, students will craft a conceptual understanding around these abilities. These elements will be reinforced in lecture encompassing principles of gestalt as a unifying methodology informing the practical applications.

Figure/Ground Course Units

E-learning will be utilized for this course and will include: updated weekly calendar (with due dates, special events and critique schedule), announcements, readings, and blog, project assignments. Please check this site daily (before each class) for supplementary resources. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Figure/Ground Course Objectives and Goals

Main objectives for students within Figure/Ground:

- Use photographic methods to create critically informed works.
- Learn and apply a slew of digital photographic manipulation tools.
- Introduce basic concepts of lighting for visual problem solving.
- Learn and apply intermediate and advanced photographic techniques.
- Use these techniques to inform a critical discourse with photographic imagery.
- Successfully unify and apply principles of gestalt in photographic imagery through a series of assignments and one final portfolio.

Figure/Ground Projects

Self Portrait: Students will introduce themselves with an introspective assignment of self-reflection, exploring some basic themes of identity and simple composition and lighting techniques.

Framing the Subject: Students will seek naturally occurring frames to illuminate their selected subjects more poignantly. This assignment will encourage active viewing in the camera viewfinder, force students to seek new perspectives, and view the natural world as a 2-dimensional plane of shapes.

Artist Emulation: Research any artist and replicate their imagery using photographic methods. This project will encourage students to visually and pre-conceptually problem solve.

Alignment and Pragnanz: The introduction of several gestalt principles, mainly the visual alignment of objects in a harmonious manner, how the mind perceives shapes, and how these can be manipulated.

Time Illustration: Learn the photographic techniques of panning, zoom pulls, and dragging the shutter to influence and exaggerate perceptions of time. Abstract thinking and premonitive image making will introduce students to an organic and fast-paced mode of visual problem solving.

Place and Space: In direct reference to ideas from Yi-Fu Tuan's ideas of "space" and "place", students will conceptualize ideas of the two with various principles of gestalt which focus on organizing a multitude of spaces. This project will encourage students to synthesize conceptual thought with technical ability.

Final Portfolio: A conceptually cohesive body of work consisting of 15 final images which will be the result of the various techniques and principles covered in the course.

Figure/Ground Studio Evaluation and Grading

EVALUATION

The course grade for each student will be evaluated on the basis of:

Participation/Attendance 10%

Projects/Critiques 65%

Final Portfolio 25%

GRADING

Letter Grade and Corresponding Grade Points

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0	0

Specific criteria for grading will be listed on each assignment sheet but will equally consider: adherence to the assignment parameters, research/studio practice, concept development, formal resolution, and craft/presentation. Late projects will be graded down a letter grade for each day they are late.

Generally project grades in this course are considered in the following way:

- A 4.0** Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in the course content.

- A- 3.67** Well-presented, superior work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.

- B+ 3.33** Very good work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed, minor changes could be considered and executed to bring piece together and studio practice was exceptional.

- B 3.0** Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.

- B- 2.67** Good work: most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was adequate.

- C+ 2.33** Slightly above average: work, most of the criteria of the assignment were met. The work is not yet a unified whole or cohesive statement, yet effort was made. Studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

- C 2.0** Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft,

originality and presentation-studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

- C- 2.67** Slightly below average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were minimally met, but there is much room for developing assignment's concepts further. The level of craft and breadth and depth of idea development needs to be improved. There is some evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking.
- D+ 1.33** Below average work: an attempt to solve the problem was made, but there is much room for improving skills and developing your concepts further. The criteria of the assignment are barely met. Basic craftsmanship skills have been neglected and there is a lack of breadth and depth of idea development. There is minimal evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking.
- D 1.0** Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- D- .67** Unacceptable work and effort: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.
- E 0** Unacceptable work and effort: the work submitted is inadequate; the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. No evidence of studio practice. Work is substandard. Or, assignment was not submitted.

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

Figure/Ground Studio Attendance and Expectations

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all classes. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period. Full participation by showing completed work during all scheduled critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

Unexcused absences will affect your final grade (at the instructor's discretion).

Absences will be counted from the first class meeting onward. Appropriate documentation from the student health service should be obtained for medical excuses.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered.

If an absence occurs it is the student's responsibility to make up all work. Students should check with the instructor or another student outside of class time when they miss a class (prior to missing the class if possible), as in- and out-of-class exercises are spontaneously assigned. Students should bring a doctor's note for any class from which they expect to be excused. Please address any concerns, problems, and questions regarding this class to the instructor as they arise.

TARDINESS: Arrival to class fifteen minutes after start of class will be noted and three such incidences will count as one absence. Leaving early from class will also be considered as tardiness, and will be counted as such.

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor. Students who do not attend at least one of the first two class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered, and who have not contacted the department to indicate their intent, may be dropped from the course. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

LATE WORK: All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Specific due dates are stated on each project

sheet and are announced in class. Failure to complete any project on time will result in a drop of one full letter grade, and failure to complete any other assignment, in-class exercises, or other class work, on time will result in a drop of ½ letter grade for each day it is late. If the time line states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late. You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your

work will not be critiqued and your project grade will be lowered. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time. Full participation by showing completed work during all critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

CLASS COMMUNICATIONS: Students must check their school email accounts regularly. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their webmail accounts.

CELL PHONES: Students in the School of Art and Art History must have cell phones on vibrate or silent. If it beeps, chimes, rings or makes any type of noise, switch it to vibrate or silent before entering the classroom. Continuous cell phone disruptions will result in lowered grades.

UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS: The Board of Regents and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Further, a student who is to be excused from class for a religious holy day is not required to provide a second party certification of the reasons for the absence.

UNIVERSITY ILLNESS POLICY: Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact their professors. If you're unable to attend class due to illness, please email the teacher prior to class meeting time. Please state your name, class, as well as the reason you will not be attending class that day.

EVALUATIONS: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

University and SA+AH Resources and Policies:

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SERVICES: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES: 352-392-1575 <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/>

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled

undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns. The primary goal of counseling is to help students develop the personal awareness and skills necessary to overcome problems and to grow and develop in ways that will allow them to take advantage of the educational opportunities at the university.

Counseling Center Web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>.

University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal counseling.

Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

STUDENT HEALTHCARE CENTER: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For medical emergencies call 911.

For urgent after-hours care, call 352-392-1161.

For after-hours mental health assistance, call 352-392-1171.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

In an emergency call 911.

University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu/> — 352-392-1111.

STUDENT NIGHTTIME AUXILIARY PATROL (SNAP): SNAP provides nightly escorts anywhere on campus to persons on request. The service is staffed by students, equipped and supervised by the university police department. Escorts are routed on foot and driven trips. A person requesting an escort may contact SNAP via telephone at 392-SNAP (92-7627). The requester provides their first name, location of pick-up and destination to the dispatcher who determines the best method of meeting the requester's need. A walking or driving escort is dispatched, to their location.

SA+AH Health and Safety Policies

HAZARDOUS WASTE SATELLITE ACCUMULATION: Please make yourself familiar with the SAAH Health and Safety Program at:

<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety> during the first week of class. Refer

especially to the H&S Rules by Area sections pertaining to WARPhaus, Drawing and Painting. Each student will be asked to complete a H&S student waiver form (which will be given to you and signed during studio).

SA+AH facilities have an area designated for art materials/hazardous waste pickup. This area should NOT be used for art making and bins and storage containers utilized in this area should NEVER be moved or used for any other purpose. When in doubt about the safety or disposal of your art materials, please speak with faculty. A Handbook of Hazardous Wastes Disposal, Health and Safety will be posted at the studio for consultation as well.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOL & WORKPLACE & CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT: The School of Art and Art History is committed to upholding the policies set forth by the University of Florida in regards to drug and alcohol use and smoking in educational facilities.

Possession and use of drugs or alcoholic beverages is not allowed in the classroom or outdoor areas. In addition, The Florida Clean Indoor Air Act of 1992 prohibits smoking in educational facilities. Violation of university policies and applicable laws is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and does not preclude the possibility of criminal charges.

Guidelines for use of Campus Facilities and Grounds

SHARED STUDIO: Please leave the studio clean. Regardless of the condition you find it in, we request that you leave it clean for the next person. Remember to place all work in progress on the storage shelves. Leave the work tables clear and clean. This is a shared studio and we all need to work together to keep it a clean and productive environment.

STUDIO PRACTICE: The instructor and the School of Art and Art History are not responsible for student work left in workspaces, installation spaces, the critique space, the shops, or the classrooms. Projects/materials are not to be stored in the group working space. **Each student is responsible for ensuring that his/her projects and materials are safely stored, displayed, installed, and removed from the classroom and critique space. Projects must be set up and removed from the critique space at the times and spaces designated for each project.**

POLICIES REGARDING BEHAVIOR IN LECTURES, CLASSROOMS, STUDIOS & OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES: Please make every effort to maintain the facilities and grounds of the WARPhaus, the School of Art and Art History, the College of Fine Arts and The University of Florida. Specifically we ask that you follow these guidelines:

1. Do not mark, paint on or deface any interior or exterior of the school or college facilities. Take care to always use protective tarps, drop cloths or masking material when working with paint media or similar materials to protect the floors in public spaces such as hallways and classrooms. That applies also to the sidewalks walls, and grounds.

2. If a special project requires temporary modification to a wall surface or to the grounds you must obtain specific permission from your instructor prior to undertaking the project. The site must be returned to its original condition immediately following the project unless prior written permission has been obtained from the School of Art and Art History.
3. No Art project may interfere with or impede access to, classrooms, hallways or other public spaces.
4. All site-specific art projects must be installed and engineered with the safety of the general public in mind.
5. Grades will not be issued for the project, or the class, until the project has been completely removed, and the site has been restored to its original condition.
6. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

Guidelines for work in the surrounding community

Proper care should be taken in order to assure all property in the surrounding area is respected and well maintained, and projects should be executed with public health and safety in mind. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated. As on campus, students doing site-specific work off-campus will be legally and financially accountable for any illegal or destructive actions. In addition, projects involving the greater community should be carefully considered and faculty must be consulted throughout. All public projects must be cleared by faculty and permission granted. Remember, that the School of Art and Art History at The University of Florida retains the power to require a more appropriate solution to any project that may violate any of the guidelines outlined above.

Please do not litter or leave materials out in the area. Respect property, surrounding businesses and the rights of individuals in the community. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action, withholding of grades, the possible lowering of a grade, or failure of the course.

Guidelines for Conduct

Student Conduct Code; Violations, Penalties and Procedures for Adjudication.

<http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4016.htm>

UF PHILOSOPHY: The University of Florida is an institution that encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals require the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs.

In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

ACADEMIC HONESTY; As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: " I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic endeavors and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action to and including expulsion from the University.

Detailed Academic Honesty Guidelines may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: Faculty, students, Administrative and Professional staff members, and other employees [hereinafter referred to as "member(s)" of the University], who intentionally act to impair, interfere with, or obstruct the mission, purposes, order, operations, processes, and functions of the University shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by University authorities for misconduct, as set forth in the applicable rules of the Board of Regents and the University and state law governing such actions. A detailed list of disruptive conduct may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/1008.html>. Be advised that you can and will be dismissed from class if you engage in disruptive behavior.