

Photo: Figure/Ground

PGY2441C

Fall 2021

3 Credit Hours

Lindsey Myers

Meeting Times: FAD0329, Tuesday and Thursday (Period 2-4) 8:30 to 11:30 am

Office Hours: Online Tuesday 11:30 to 1:00 (Scheduled through email)

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FIGURE/GROUND OBJECTIVE:

Figure/ground endeavors to provide a critical understanding of both the formal building components and conceptual aspects of the photographic image. It will connect a myriad of separate studies to provide a stronger understanding of compositional and theoretical photographic practice. Supplemental readings, articles, and essays will enhance your critical understanding of the various applications of photography in history as an art and cultural object.

During this class, the students will be learning the photographic approaches to shooting with a digital camera in both controlled studio-based photography and uncontrollable nature of street photography. Students will use the understanding of capturing a subject, light, construction of the image/scene, and symbology in the creations of these projects. The students will be taught to develop projects using different photographic strategies and/or display. The conceptual and technical understanding of photographic process will be understood through readings, lectures, demos, discussions, and viewings.

FIGURE/GROUND METHODS OF STUDY:

This course is committed to strengthening the critical and photographic eye by a constant immersion in concepts of the photographing a subject, while furthering technical abilities both. This will be achieved through in class activities, assignments, lectures, technical demos, readings and discussions on or related to these concepts.

Students will learn skills in digital photography, photo editing, and printing along with the introduction of the lighting studio, street photography, and photo as an expression of ideas. The technical approach to this course is through digital techniques; These approaches will be emphasized.

Written and verbal participation are essential in strengthening a critical photographic practice. Students will develop abilities to refine their ideas by becoming conscious of the connections and linkages made across and between imagery through a series of both written and in-class activities such as reading responses, reviews, critiques and round-table discussions. Active engagement is essential for this development and for the ability to assess the work of your classmates, as well as contemporary work beyond the course.

This course will be delivered in person located in FAD0329.

Topics Presented:

Lighting

Symbology of Objects and the Image
Street Photography
Shooting a Subject, human or otherwise
Tableau, constructed realities in photography
Creating a narrative through aesthetics, concept, and the series.

Material List:

- Digital SLR Camera (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED)
 - There will be a small number of cameras available for checkout through photography area located in FAD. But they will be in high demand. Ask instructor for camera suggestions.
 - SD Card reader if you have a DSLR and no reader on your personal computer
 - Photoshop subscription (There is a photography bundle that is cheaper than the whole suite) You can get student pricing and one month free with new subscription. Adobe CC is available for UF students to purchase for 6 months at \$77 (one-time fee) or for \$140 for 12 months (also one-time fee) (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, NOT REQUIRED) (There are adobe suites in multiple computer labs on campus as well as in the Fawbush printing lab)
 - Premium Photo Luster. Paper length: 24"x100". Find on B&H or Amazon (Wait till near end of PROJECT 1)
 - External Hard drive
- More materials might be necessary as the semester moves along

How grades are determined:

40% Participation / Homework / Class assignments
10% Project 1
10% Project 2
15% Project 3
15% Project 4
10% Artist Presentation

Grading scale:

A: 100-93%, A-: 92%-90%, B+: 89-86%, B: 85-83%, B-:82-80%, C+:79-76%, C:75-73%, C-: 72-70%, D+: 69-66%, D: 65-63%, D-: 62-60%, F: 59-0%

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 are 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 are 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.

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

Greater Detail of UF grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

IMAGE / ORDER / IDEA CLASS DEMEANOR POLICY:

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

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

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distracting behavior. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in, at least, a request to leave class.

Course Units:

Project 1: Still Life

Develop a set of photos of a still life formed from objects to create a self-portrait while considering contemporary photographers and historical artistic movements, such as the Dutch still life. The purpose of this assignment is to learn the symbology of objects included in the photographic image and how to use these as a strategy. This is also to teach students how to use controlled studio photography and lighting studios effectively.

Project 2: Street Photography

For this project, you will be sent into the world to take photographs in uncontrolled environments. This must include at least one figure in the shot. Use the decisive moment in your favor while you shoot. This unit will be used to master exposure without controlled lighting.

Project 3: The Tableau

In this assignment we will be exploring setting up a constructed reality to shoot a narrative or scene that has been decided imagined by the student. We will explore planning and narrations through creating your own scene of constructed reality.

Final Project: Independent Project

For this project, you are to create a series of photography-based works that create a series or body of artwork. This will include research, titles, and a project statement. This will be a culmination of everything from the class so far. You are encouraged to experiment with photography and concept.

E-learning:

Canvas will be utilized throughout the course. It will be used for announcements, discussion posts, project submissions, online demos, and a hub for all the useful files for this course. The instructor recommends that the student checks canvas every day to keep up on the course.

Readings:

Throughout the semester you will be required to respond to readings given out by the professor. You will be required to be prepared to talk about the writings in the next class period.

Artist Presentations:

Each student will be required to do a ten-minute presentation on a photographer covering their practice, content, as well as their impact on photography as a whole.

Visiting artists:

You will be required to attend two visiting artist lectures that will be hosted online. You will also be required to write a three to four paragraph response and have it posted to canvas up to a

week after when the lecture was held. It will be a short summary of what the lecture's content was and what you did or didn't get out of it.

- Cite Artist Talk information and any articles or videos you reference
- Who/what (if anyone) does the artist collaborate with?
- What are the main influences upon their work?
- What kind of impact does the artist create? artistic, intellectual, communal, civic, social, etc.
- Who are the specific audiences or communities that the artist engages with?

Texts and Materials:

There will be no textbook required for this class. I will be providing readings through canvas or UF's online library archive.

Attendance Policy:

Students should come to every class period. I will allow for up to 3 absences, every absence afterwards will take away a letter grade off of the current project during the period in which the student misses class. In studio art class it is important to make it to every class meeting to not miss important demos. Absences will be excused depending on the situation with an email to the professor. Try not to be late. Being late consistently will affect your participation grade.

Late/Make up work:

The professor will allow for make-up work with a valid excuse before the assignment is due. This will be a case by case basis. For medical reasons, a doctor's note is strongly encouraged if the student is sick or injured. If the assignment is not excused for being late, every class period it is late 10% will be taken off the final grade.

Academic Honesty:

Students are required to be honest in all of their university class work. Faculty members have a duty to promote ethical behavior and avoid practices and environments that foster cheating. Faculty should encourage students to bring incidents of dishonesty to their attention. A faculty member, in certain circumstances, can resolve an academic dishonesty matter without a student disciplinary hearing. The procedures and guidelines are available from Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Individuals with disabilities must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities and submit to this instructor the document concerning necessary accommodations. This should be done early in the semester.

THE DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER - REID HALL

352-392-8565.

Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SA+AH HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please familiarize yourself the School of Art and Art History's Health and Safety policies by reviewing the handbook here: (<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety>) Also, find the Home Practice Safety Handbook on the course canvas.

Gator Evals:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

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.

Campus Resources:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- **If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.**

- **You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.**
 - **Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.**
 - **Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.**

- **If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.**
 - **Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.**
 - **If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.**

- **Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.**

Changes to syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes to the syllabus. Students will be notified through canvas of any changes made.