College of San Mateo
Course Outline

New Course

Update/No change

Course Revision (Major)

Date: 12/8/11

Department: Art Number: 350
Course Title: Visual Perception Units: 3.0
Total Semester Hours: Lecture: 48 Lab: 0 Homework: 96 By Arrangement: 0

Length of Course

Semester-long
Short course (Number of weeks ___)
Open entry/Open exit

Grading
X Letter
Pass/No Pass
Grade Option (letter or Pass/No Pass)

Faculty Load Credit (To be completed by Division Office; show calculations.):
48/16 = 3 FLCs

1. Prerequisite (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)
   None.

2. Corequisite (Attach Enrollment Limitation Validation Form.)
   None.

3. Recommended Preparation (Attach Enrollment Validation Form.)
   None.

4. Catalog Description (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation. For format, please see model course outline.)
   ART 350 Visual Perception (3) Minimum of 48 lecture hours per term. Visual exploration into natural forms and man-made objects as an expression of art using photography as the medium. Digital cameras or color slide film are used. Covers basic principles of perception, light, color, composition and visual awareness. Encourages students to transmit their aesthetic, intellectual and emotional concerns through the photographic medium. Instruction in the use of cameras, lenses and other creative controls in photography. Extra supplies may be required. (AA: Area E5c, CSU: Area C1)

5. Class Schedule Description (Include prerequisites/corequisites/recommended preparation. For format, please see model course outline.)
   ART 350 Visual Perception (3) Minimum of 48 lecture hours per term. Visual exploration into natural forms and man-made objects as an expression of art using photography as the medium. Digital cameras or color slide film are used. Covers basic principles of perception, light, color, composition and visual awareness. Encourages students to transmit their aesthetic, intellectual and emotional concerns through the photographic medium. Instruction in the use of cameras, lenses and other creative controls in photography. Extra supplies may be required. (AA: Area E5c, CSU: Area C1)
6. **Student Learning Outcomes** (Identify 1-6 expected learner outcomes using active verbs.)

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Use the photographic medium as a means of personal expression.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the camera.
3. Create effective photographic compositions using the design principles of visual perception.
4. Critically analyze and evaluate their work, the work of their peers and the work of professional photographers.

7. **Course Objectives** (Identify specific teaching objectives detailing course content and activities. *For some courses, the course objectives will be the same as the student learning outcomes. In this case, “Same as Student Learning Outcomes” is appropriate here.*)

**Purpose versus Task**

The purpose of the class is to heighten the visual awareness of students and allow them to discover and develop a visual means of communication. Since the class is within the context of a Fine Art department the communication will generally take the form of self-expression—rather than news, advertising, etc.

The task of the class is to become competent with visual perception and to see the photograph as a means of self-expression. Also, through the study of historical and contemporary photographs, students will learn to describe, interpret and evaluate photographic imagery. This ability will be refined through critiques, classroom discussion, and a written exhibition report.

8. **Course Content** (Brief but complete topical outline of the course that includes major subject areas [1-2 pages]. Should reflect all course objectives listed above. In addition, a sample course syllabus with timeline may be attached.)

**Creative Process:**
- Observe: the ability to slow down the world and yourself
- Discovery: develop a deeper fascination for life and the world
- Examine: refine your ability to critically analyze
- Interpret: develop insights of yourself and society
- Respond: a personal (visual) response—a photograph

**Exploration of Composition including:**
- A. Figure/Ground.
- B. Foundations of composition --Light, line shape and shadow.
- C. Portraiture.
- D. Use of black and white.
- E. Creating relationships between visual elements within the composition.

**Shooting Assignments:**
- Eliminating Visual Clutter - Make the subject of the photograph clear and separate from the other visual elements in the frame.

**Construction:** Using lines, shapes and shadows as construction elements within the composition.
Visual Balance and Harmony: Create compositions that use symmetry, asymmetry and strong visual weight to create elegance and visual harmony.

People: Include human form within your composition. Photograph a friend or family member where the environment (background) provides the viewer with information beyond the physical characteristics of your subject.

Light
- Strong
- Diffused
- Golden hour
- Twilight
- Night

Photographing People
- Formal/informal backgrounds
- Subject eye contact
- Gesture
- Active/passive backgrounds

Cameras
- Controls: F-stops and depth of field, shutter speeds and the depiction of motion, lenses, perspective and how these controls affect meaning.

9. **Representative Instructional Methods** (Describe instructor-initiated teaching strategies that will assist students in meeting course objectives. Describe out-of-class assignments, required reading and writing assignments, and methods for teaching critical thinking skills. If hours by arrangement are required, please indicate the additional instructional activity which will be provided during these hours, where the activity will take place, and how the activity will be supervised.)

1. Digitally presented lectures demonstrating successful assignments done by past students. See SLOs: 3, 4.

2. Classroom presentation analyzing prominent photographer’s work that demonstrates good composition. See SLOs: 1, 4.

3. Individual student-teacher conferences. See SLOs: 1, 4.

4. Out of class assignments. Students will make photographic images, on their own time. See SLOs: 1, 2, 3.


6. Writing assignments. Students will be required to write and submit a 2-3 page museum report. See SLO: 4.

10. **Representative Methods of Evaluation** (Describe measurement of student progress toward course objectives. Courses with required writing component and/or problem-solving emphasis must reflect critical thinking component. If skills class, then applied skills.)

1. Image assessment in group critique.

2. Participation during class discussions and critiques.

3. Exhibit report.
11. Representative Text Materials (With few exceptions, texts need to be current. Include publication dates.)
Digital Photography in Available Light: Essential Skills

Prepared by: 
(Signature)

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Submission Date: 