The American University of Rome
Communication and Digital Media Program
Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Photography in Rome: The Eternal City
Course Number: DM 104
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 4 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: None

Course description

Using Rome as our canvas space/playground, students will engage weekly with the city (on-site) to understand the complexities of: composition, exposure, aperture, speed, and light to fully realize and capture the beauty of this monumental city. Students will learn to shoot using a variety of techniques and lenses to understand their inherent pros and cons in Rome, while also learning the fundamentals of the exposure triangle, composition, and post production to produce aesthetically pleasing photographs of Rome. Photographs will be presented (online) locally and internationally.

Course fee Euro 75.

Recommended Textbook *(subject to change)*

Handouts created for the course will be distributed
- Understanding Photography Filed Guide by Bryan Peterson, New York, Amphoto Books, 2009
- The Beginner's Photography Guide. Chris Gatcum. 2013
  ISBN: 978-1-4654-0845

Additional material

Bring your own camera (DSLR is recommended) and tripod (optional) to class.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basics of camera operation and advance their proficiency in using the full range of camera settings, and use of professional photographic accessories (lenses, flash, etc.) to create striking images with a defined narrative.
2. Utilize the elements and principles of proper photographic composition.
3. Adopt the various photographic styles that shooting in an urban environment can present.
4. Understand how to use available light as a creative tool in every shot.
5. Develop and the essential skills of post processing a digital photograph.
6. Present their work in peer presentations and understand the value of submitting their work to select photo competitions

Course Learning Activities

- Readings: There will be several moments when you will have to open a book and learn a bit more, so it's to your benefit to read what is required and take part in the discussions regarding them in class. (LOs 1-6)
- Quizzes and Exams: There will be 3 quizzes based on the readings, and our discussions/presentations in class. No Midterm or Final exam will be given. (Los 1-6)
- You will have a series of Projects (listed below) which will push your creative talents to use photography as an art form to capture and contextualize Rome as your primary subject.
- Attendance and Homework Assignments: To learn photography you must practice the art of taking photographs. Each day we will learn new techniques that build upon your skills as the course progresses. We will be walking around some widely familiar and less touristic areas of Rome, so be prepared to explore and be creative.
- You will be selecting and posting your best works online, and you will also be participating in an international photography competition during the course, so your best work should be your ultimate goal of representing Roman Scenes.
- Critiques ?Students are expected to be able to articulate what elements are successful and/or what improvements could be made in their photography as well as their classmates' photos during class critiques.

COURSE PROJECTS:

Project #1: Principles and Elements of Photography: Using the 7 principles of Design/Photography, students will create a series of 10 photos that represent the best use of each principle. (LO 1)

Project #2: Composition Principles: Using the 9 principles of composition, students will create a series of 10 photos to represent each element and their relation to the principles and elements of photography. (LOs 1-4)

Project #3: Aperture; Students will use Rome as their subject and create a series of 6 photos that demonstrate effect use of aperture in photography with relation to the principles and elements of photography. (LOs 1-4)

Project #4: Speed/Motion; Students will use Rome as their subject and shoot a series of 5 photos that demonstrate effect use of shutter speed in photography by capturing movement in Rome. (LOs 1-4)

Project #5: Light; Students will use Rome as their subject and create a series of 5 photos that demonstrate effect use of light in photography. Focus should be on creating a balance of light and shadow, or a creative contrast of it. (LOs 1-5)

Project #6: Landscapes; Students will create 5 striking images of the Eternal City by showcasing the monumental scale of Rome. Location is critical, and so is composition. (LOs 1-5)

Project #7: Night Photography; Students will use long exposures to create 5 striking portraits of the Eternal City. Location and composition are critical. (LOs 1-6)

Project #8: Street Story: Students will use photography as a medium for storytelling by selecting a topic/theme in which they will focus their photography on. A series of 5 photos is

required to complete this project. (LOs 1-6)

Project #9: HDR Photography; Students will combine a series of bracketed photos to create a stunning work of HDR photography. 3 photo submissions are required. Work will be judged on realism, detail, and execution using HDR software. (LOs 1-6)

Project #10: Abstract; Students will take a series of 5 shots and use creative expression within a selected theme. The goal of this project is to make an engaging photograph full of details without immediately revealing the subject. (LOS 1-6)

MIDTERM PROJECT
A Photo Essay; Students use a series of images to invoke an emotional response from the viewer. Students will prepare a 5-7 minute narrative script that can be read as your images a presented in a slideshow. Creating a photo essay is a combination of art and journalism. As with a written essay, the elements of a photo essay should be structured in a way that easily conveys a story to the viewer. Each individual photo contributes to the overall story, theme, and emotions of the essay. The photos you choose must not only be compositionally and artistically strong, but also informative and educational. (LOs 1-6)

FINAL PROJECT
24 Hours in Rome; Students will select a personal theme in which to present the passage of time photographically in Rome using 12 carefully timed photographs. Students may choose from all available forms of photography, but works will be judged strictly on their narrative of photographic storytelling, composition, exposure, and any post production correction. Students must print out all works for display and critique. Photographs will be displayed in a gallery style exhibition and open to guest critics, professional photographers, and AUR professors. (LOs 1-6)

Additional Material
BYOC = Bring Your Own Camera. If you want to have the ability to control all the aspects of photography, a DSLR camera is highly recommended, or a Mirrorless camera. A point-and-shoot/bridge camera will also work, but a smartphone is not recommended as it will create certain limitations when working with exposure. A tripod (or monopod) is also recommended, as well as a USB drive to share/upload your work.

Assessment tools

Quizzes	10%
Project #1 - #5	20%
Project #6 - #10	20%
Midterm Project	20%
Final Project	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC
Week 1	<u>INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE – INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY</u> *Getting to know all about you and the world of photography.* *Understanding our cameras and gearing up for your first shots.*
Week 2	<u>PRINCIPLES/ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY- INTRO TO PROJECT #1 (P&E Project)</u> <u>C.E.L.L. – PRINCIPLES OF COMPOSITION – INTRO TO PROJECT #2 (Composition)</u> *Defining the Principles and Elements of Photography and how to use them in your work.* *Composing great photos is what makes Photography an art. The Principles of Composition* *On-site (Parco del Gianicolo) - working with the Principles and Elements of Photography*
Week 3	<u>COLOUR YOUR WORLD: HOW TO USE COLOUR IN PHOTOGRAPHY</u> *Colour is THE MOST valuable element to use in Photography, but how do we work with it?* *Project #1 & Project #2 Due: In Class Critique and review*
Week 4	<u>C.E.L.L. –THE TRUTH ABOUT EXPOSURE – INTRO TO PROJECT #3</u> *(Aperture)* *QUIZ #1 (Elements and Principles – Camera basics)* *Understanding the fundamentals of the Exposure Triangle* *On-site (Trastevere) - working with Aperture*
Week 5	<u>C.E.L.L. – LOOKING THROUGH THE LENS – INTRO TO PROJECT #4 (Speed)</u> *Project #3 Due In Class Critique and review* *Working with Lenses and using available light or controlled light for great shots.* *On-site (Piramide) - working to capture speed/movement*
Week 6	<u>C.E.L.L. – LET THERE BE LIGHT – INTRO TO PROJECT #5</u> *(Light)* *Project #4 Due: In Class Critique and review* *Understanding light and how it works in photography to create stunning shots.* **On-site (Colosseo) working with Morning / Late Morning Light*
Week 7	<u>THE POWER OF DIGITAL POST PRODUCTION - LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY – INTRO TO PROJECT #6 (Landscape)</u> *Quiz #2 (C.E.L.L.)* *Project #5 Due: In Class Critique and review* *Landscape photography and some of the masters of the art.* *On-site (Villa Pamphili) - working on Landscapes*
Week 8	<u>THE DREADED WEEK OF MIDTERM PROJECTS</u> *Project #6 Due: In Class Critique and review* *MIDTERM PROJECT DUE*
Week 9	<u>ANGELS AND DEMONS – INTRO TO THE FINAL</u> *On-site (Castel Sant'Angelo/Vatican)*
Week 10	<u>LOW LIGHT AND NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY – INTRO TO PROJECT #7 (Night)</u> *How to master your camera's settings to take long exposure night shots with the right amount of detail.* *On-site (Testaccio)*
Week 11	<u>STREET AND URBAN PHOTOGRAPHY – INTRO TO PROJECT #8 (Street story)</u> *Project #7 Due: In Class Critique and review* *On-site (Centro Storico)*
Week 12	<u>SEEING IS BELIEVING – INTRO TO PROJECT #9 (HDR)</u> *Project #8 Due: In Class Critique and review* *Setting your camera up to take bracketed images and processing them in HDR software.* *No Class – Easter Holiday – Make up day is May 9th.*
Week 13	<u>DISTRIBUTING AND DISPLAYING YOUR WORK – INTRO TO PROJECT #10 (Abstract)</u> *Quiz #3 (Photographers and their techniques)* *Project #9 Due: In Class Critique and review* *On-site (Gasometro/Porto Fluviale or EUR)*
Week 14 FINAL EXAM	<u>WRAPPING UP AND PREP FOR YOUR EXHIBITION</u> *Project #10 Due: In Class Critique and review* *Work in class, wrap up, and Prof. help.* FINAL PROJECT EXHIBITION AND CRITIQUE

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences
Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences
Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

• The Model United Nations (MUN);
• Permit to Stay,
• SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
• Religious Holidays
  The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)
  Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.
  Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
Grades not computed into the grade point average are:			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		