

DSGN 3756 - Design + Photography 2

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 43805,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Joy Christiansen Erb

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor and Chair

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

MFA, Texas Woman's University

BFA, Miami University

Instructor Office Location: Bliss Hall Rm. 4001A

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Course Description

3756. Building on the foundational skills acquired in the introductory photography course, this advanced course delves deeper into the technical and creative aspects of photography tailored for graphic design majors. Students will explore advanced camera techniques, lighting setups, and post-processing methods to create professional-grade images. The course emphasizes integrating photographic elements into complex graphic design projects, encouraging students to experiment with innovative visual storytelling and composition. Through challenging assignments and projects, students will refine their ability to produce compelling imagery that enhances their design work, preparing them for professional practice in graphic design. Prereq.: C or better in DSGN 2656 or permission of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Natural Light Photography Guide: Tips & Techniques	The School of Photography	
Required	Inside the Process of Editing a Photo	Ferguson, Adam	
Required	Still Life: The Object as Subject	Museum of Contemporary Photography	
Required	Creating a Portfolio: Advice from Magnum	Magnum Photos	
Required	Learning to Self-Critique Your Images	Photography Life	

All articles are available in Blackboard. No books are required.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	- Natural Light Photography Guide: Tips & Techniques (article available in blackboard) - Creative Brief (handout available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 1 - Discussion Post - Module 1 - Turn in Project 1 (Part 1) - Complete Student Introduction Post	- Introduction Prompt – Due by Thurs. at 11:59pm - Journal Prompt – Due by Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Post 1 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 1 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 1 (Part 1) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
8/31	- Inside the Process of Editing a Photo to Feature (article available in blackboard) - Consistency in visual Style (handout available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 1: (Part 2) - Discussion Post - Module 2 - Turn in Project 1 (Part 2)	- Discussion Post 2 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 2 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 1 (Part 2) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
9/7	Ethics of Photo Editing (handout available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 1 (Part 3) - Discussion Post - Module 3 - Turn in Project 1 (Part 3)	- Discussion Post 3 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 3 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 1 (Part 3) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
9/14	Designing the Flat Lay (handout available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 2 (Part 1) - Discussion Post - Module 4 - Turn in Project 2 (Part 1)	- Discussion Post 3 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 3 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 1 (Part 3) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
9/21	Still Life: The Object as Subject (article available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 2 (Part 2) - Discussion Post - Module 5 - Turn in Project 2 (Part 2)	- Discussion Post 5 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 5 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 2 (Part 2) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
9/28	Environmental Portrait Selection Checklist (handout available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 2 (Part 3) - Discussion Post - Module 6 - Turn in Project 2 (Part 3)	- Discussion Post 6 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 6 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 1 (Part 3) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
10/5	- Creating a Portfolio: Advice from a Magnum (article available in blackboard) - Learning to Self-Critique your images (article available in blackboard)	- Introduction to Project 3 - Discussion Post - Module 7 - Turn in Project 3	- Discussion Post 7 – Due Thurs. at 11:59pm - Discussion Reply Post 7 – Due Fri. at 11:59 pm - Project 3: Final Portfolio + Presentation– Due Sun. at 11:59pm

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.