
DSGN 2656 - Design + Photography 1

Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 30974,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Joy Christiansen Erb

Professional Qualifications:

MFA, Texas Woman's University

BFA, Miami University

Professor and Chair

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Additional Contact Methods:

Questions for the Instructor thread in the Blackboard classroom

Preferred Contact Method: Email

Communication Expectations:

I will be present in the classroom throughout the school week. I will occasionally be present on the weekends as well. I will endeavor to respond to questions posted to the Questions for the Instructor thread in the Blackboard classroom, or via email within 24-hours during the week and within 48-hours on the weekends.

How to Refer to me:

Joy or Professor Christiansen Erb

Course Description

2656. This course is designed specifically for graphic design majors to develop essential photography skills that enhance their design projects. Students will learn to master camera settings and usage and fundamental photographic and design principles. Emphasis will be placed on creating high-quality images seamlessly integrating into various graphic design applications. Through hands-on projects and practical assignments, students will explore the creative potential of photography in the context of graphic design. Prereq.: C or better in DSGN 2660 or permission of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
No required books.			

There are technical handouts included in each module for students to read.

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
5/11	Handouts available in blackboard: •Diagrams of aperture and shutter speed effects •Sample images demonstrating the results of different settings •Step-by-step instructions for shooting in manual mode	Project 1 (Part 1): Introduction to Project 1: Creating the Perfect Exposure (Part 1) - Full Manual Mode / Discussion Post - Module 1 / Turn in Project 1 (Part 1)	Review Syllabus, Supply List and Introduction Video, Complete the "Student Introduction" under the "Getting Started" section. Complete the Journal Entry listed in Module 1. Discussion Post 1 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 2 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 1 (Part 1) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
5/18	Handouts available in blackboard: • A guide on evaluating tonal range using the histogram • How to assess image quality for exposure, noise, and sharpness • Short notes on when minor exposure corrections are appropriate in editing software • Tips on preparing image files for submission (JPEG vs. RAW, resolution, naming conventions)	Project 1 (Part 2): Continue working on Project 1 (Part 2) - Refining Exposure and Image Quality - Reshoot and Workflow / Discussion Post - Module 2 / Turn in Project 1 (Part 2)	Discussion Post 2 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Project 1 (Part 2) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
5/25	Handouts available in blackboard: • Step-by-step workflow guide: "From Import to Export" • Explanation of Lightroom's global tools (Exposure, White, Black, Highlights, Shadows, Cropping, and Spot Removal)	Project 1 (Part 3): Finish Project 1 (Part 3) / Discussion Post - Module 3 / Turn in Project 1 (Part 3)	Discussion Post 3 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 3 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 1 (Part 3) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
6/1	Handouts available in blackboard: • Design principles (contrast, unity, movement, balance, etc.). • Elements of Design (line, shape, form, repetition, etc.).	Project 2 (Part 1): Introduction to Project 2: Foundations of Composition & Design in Photograph (Part 1) / Discussion Post - Module 4 / Turn in Project 2 (Part 1)	Discussion Post 4 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 4 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 2 (Part 1) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
6/8	No Readings	Project 2 (Part 2): Finish Project 2 (Part 2) / Discussion Post / Turn in Project 2 (Part 2)	Discussion Post 5 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 5 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 3 (Part 1) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
6/15	Handouts available in blackboard: • Sample creative brief • Creative Brief worksheet • Guides on framing for ads and leaving space for text (negative space strategies)	Project 3 (Part 1): Introduction to Project 3 – Photography for a Graphic Design Advertisement (Part 1) / Discussion Post / Turn in Project 3 (Part 1)	Discussion Post 6 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 6 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 3 (Part 1) – Due Sun. at 11:59pm
6/22	Handouts available in blackboard: • Export guidelines for print (300 dpi, color profile) & web (72 dpi)	Project 3 (Part 2): Finish Project 3 (Part 2) / Discussion Post / Turn in Project 3 (Part 2)	Discussion Post 7 – Due Wed. at 11:59pm Discussion Reply Post 7 – Due Sun. at 11:59pm Project 3 (Part 2) – 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.