



# Photography Studio: Intermediate

## Course Details

**Course Designator & Number: FLOR 3504**

**Number of Credits: 3**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**Contact Hours: 75**

**Instructor: Dario Orlandi**

## Course Description

The course takes up and expands upon the concepts and practices introduced at the Beginner level, drawing inspiration from the stimulating environment of the city of Florence. The first part of the course reviews and expands the fundamental concepts of photographic technique and digital image management. Students will develop two projects related to the reading and interpretation of the Florentine territory (architecture and street photography). They will also write a critical paper commenting on a selection of readings. The second part of the course focuses on film photography (shooting and darkroom techniques) through a portrait project dedicated to the people of Florence. Subsequently, the themes of photographic language and design will be explored through the planning and implementation of an original photographic project - theme and technique of the student's choice – focusing on Florence. Students will write a second critical paper. At the end of the course, students will produce a personal portfolio of their best works and participate in the creation of a collective exhibition.

## Course Objectives

At the end of the course students will have deepened their knowledge of:

- Photographic technique, digital and film
- Photographic language and planning
- Digital workflow, including archive organization and backup management

- Archive management and post-production with Adobe Lightroom Classic
- Darkroom and film photography processing
- Photographic projects presentation
- Planning and production of a personal portfolio
- Organization of a collective exhibition
- Critical writing

## Methodology

The course begins with an in-depth look at shooting technique, supported by critical readings, and at the fundamentals of the digital workflow. The two works assigned during the first part of the course, architecture and street photography, allow students to get to know and deepen their knowledge of the Florentine territory, an ideal terrain for artistic experimentation. During the first part of the course, students will be asked to read and comment on a critical text on photography.

The second part of the course involves the use of film photography and darkroom: a thematic portrait work will be the subject of this approach, always with a view to interaction with the local culture. A last assignment with free subject and technique (to be developed within Florence and approved by the instructor) is an opportunity for an in-depth study of photographic language and design. A second paper reinforces critical writing skills. The course concludes with the production of a personal portfolio and the participation in a group exhibition.

## Experiential Learning & Field Visits

The course includes numerous practical activities and outings such as visits to exhibitions and places related to local and visual culture, meetings with authors, and similar. Additionally, a number of shooting sessions will be conducted in the city.

## Course Prerequisites

Completion of a beginner Photography course or equivalent.

## Required Reading / Materials

### Materials:

- Digital SLR or mirrorless camera with a mid-range zoom (e.g., 18-55, 18-70 for APS-C, or 28-80 for full-frame cameras) and/or with prime lenses (wide-angle, normal, telephoto lenses) + battery charger; bridge compact cameras with zoom lens and full

manual controls are admitted for the course, automatic only cameras or smartphones are not suitable;

- Film camera with lens(es) and manual controls;
- Solid tripod suitable to hold firmly the camera standing up;
- Personal laptop with Adobe Bridge and Lightroom Classic installed and at least 50 Gb of free storage memory (otherwise and external extra memory is required);
- If not available on the computer: memory card reader or data transfer cable (camera to pc).

### Readings:

- Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography*, Focal press (technique)
- Michael Langford, *Langford's Advanced Photography*, Focal press (technique)
- Mary Warner Marien, *Photography Fifth Edition: A Cultural History*, Laurence King Publishers (history)
- David Bate, *Photography: the Key Concepts*, Routledge (history and theory)
- Liz Wells, *Photography: A Critical Introduction*, Routledge (critical debates on photography).

# Grading

## Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Project 1 advancement (lesson 11)	5%
Project 2 advancement (lesson 12)	5%
Critical paper 1	10%
Midterm: projects 1 and 2 delivery and presentation (lesson 14)	20%
Project 3 advancement (lesson 25)	5%
Project 4 advancement (lesson 26)	5%
Critical paper 2	10%
Final: project 3 and 4 delivery and presentation (lesson 28)	20%
Final portfolio	10%
Participation	10%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Assessment Details**

### **Midterm**

Projects 1 & 2: Architecture and street photography (30 images with title and 500 words introduction each) to be presented in pdf (A4 @ 150 dpi). A minimum of 15 photos will be presented for the advancement assessment for each project.

Critical paper of 1000 words on a subject assigned by the instructor.

### **Final**

Project 3: portrait film photography to be presented printed (15 prints) and in digital (30 scanned images with title and 500 words introduction in a A4 @ 150 dpi pdf). A minimum of 8 printed photos will be presented for the advancement assessment for each project.

Project 4: a personal project of 30 images to be developed within the Florentine context. Students will discuss their project idea with the instructor and will present the project along with a complete project study (details to be provided in class). The project can be carried out in digital or film mode, and presented as described above.

Critical paper of 1,000 words on a subject assigned by the instructor.

### **Portfolio**

The final portfolio will consist of the selection of the 5 best images of each of the 4 projects carried out during the course, to be presented jointly and introduced by an abstract (250 words) that highlights the common thread that unites the language and the research developed by the students. The portfolio will be presented in pdf (A4 @ 150 dpi).

# Course Content

## Unit 1

### Course Introduction

- Course aims, organization, materials, and equipment
- Photography in Florence, history and present
- In-class activity: personal notes on what photography means to each student
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 1: What is photography?

## Unit 2

### From Pinhole to Camera – Part 1

- Camera essential components
- Lenses, focus, aperture, depth of field, focal length
- In-class activity: first exercises on camera settings
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 3: Lenses and filters controlling the image

## Unit 3

### From Pinhole to Camera – Part 2

- Shutter, ISO, and exposure
- In-class activity: reading a photography and trying to reproduce its light
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 5: Exposure measurement

## Unit 4

### Camera Types & Digital Image

- Camera types (film and digital)
- Digital image, sensors, image file

- Visual literacy activity: museum or exhibit visit
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 4: Canvas
- Reading: *Langford's Advanced Photography* – Chapter 8: Digital image management and manipulation

## Unit 5

### Static Photography Practice

- Shooting with tripod in manual mode
- In-class activity: quick examples on still life, interiors and posed portraits

## Unit 6

### Digital Photography Lab 1: Architecture in Florence

- History of Architecture Photography in Florence
- Activity: Photographing architecture
- Reading: *Langford's Advanced Photography* – Chapter 2: Subjects

## Unit 7

### Dynamic Photography Practice

- Automatic exposure and focus
- Visual literacy activity: museum or exhibit visit

## Unit 8

### Digital Photography Lab 2: Street Photography in Florence

- History of Street Photography in Florence
- Activity: photographing street life
- Reading: *Langford's Advanced Photography* – Chapter 12: Subjects



## Unit 9

### Digital Workflow

- Archive organization, data transfer, and backup
- In-class activity: monitor calibration

## Unit 10

### Adobe Lightroom Classic

- Adobe Lightroom Classic fundamentals
- In-class activity: practice with lightroom classic
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 8: Digital workflow

## Unit 11

### Digital Photography Lab 3: Architecture in Florence

- Project 1: advancement assessment
- Activity: Shooting in the streets of Florence
- In-class activity: editing

## Unit 12

### Digital Photography Lab 4: Street Photography in Florence

- Project 2: advance assessment
- Activity: shooting in the streets of Florence
- In-class activity: editing
- Reading: *Langford's Advanced Photography* – Chapter 12: Subjects

## Unit 13

### Projects 1 & 2 Finalization

- In-class activity: Project 1 (Architecture Photography) & 2 (Street Photography)

## Unit 14

### Projects Presentation

- Project 1 (Architecture Photography) & 2 (Street Photography) presentation and assessment
- Peer critique and comment

## Unit 15

### Break

## Unit 16

### Break

## Unit 17

### Fundamentals of Film Photography

- Loading the film
- Shooting the film vs. digital: differences and similarities

## Unit 18

### Film Photography Lab 1: People of Florence

- Activity: shooting in the streets of Florence
- In-class activity: editing

## Unit 19

### Darkroom Fundamentals

- Development and printing processes: theory and first examples
- In-class activity: experimentation with materials and darkroom preparation
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 10: Film and film processing

## Unit 20

### Darkroom Lab 1

- In-class activity: development and printing in practice
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 11: Black and white printing techniques, equipment and facilities

## Unit 21

### Authors & Photography Language

- Technique and language in the work of famous photographers
- In-class activity: guest lecture by a professional photographer
- Reading: *Langford's Basic Photography* – Chapter 6: Organization the picture

## Unit 22

### Photographic Projects: Planning a Personal Photographic Project in Florence

- Project creation methodology
- In-class activity: planning a photographic work

## Unit 23

### Film Photography Lab 2: People of Florence

- Activity: shooting in the streets of Florence
- In-class activity: editing

## Unit 24

### Personal Project Lab 1

- Activity: shooting
- In-class activity: editing

## Unit 25

### Darkroom Lab 2

- Project 3 advancement assessment
- In-class activity: develop and printing of film project(s)

## Unit 26

### Personal Project Lab 2

- Project 4 advancement assessment
- Activity: shooting in the streets of Florence
- In-class activity: editing

## Unit 27

### Projects 3 & 4 Finalization

- In-class activity: Projects 3 (Portraits/film) and Project 4 (Personal Project) finalization

## Unit 28

### Projects 3 & 4 Presentation

- Project 3 (Portraits/film) & 4 (Personal Project) presentation and assessment
- Peer critique and comment

## Unit 29

### Portfolio & Final Exhibition

- Portfolio planning and production
- Planning and setting up a collective exhibition

## Unit 30

### Final Portfolio

- Submission and in-class presentation of the personal portfolio

# Policies

## Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

## University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

### Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

### Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).