**UNO-Japan Summer 2020**

**FA 1551 Digital Photography Fundamentals**

Professor Dan Rule drule@uno.edu

Office Hours: by appointment & varies by date: can be done in-person, online or by phone

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the foundations of digital photography using Kyoto and its inhabitants as subject matter. Students will explore digital image technology and processes through image editing software, input devices and camera operation. This class will address non-technical aspects such as the history of photography, contemporary photography/art, aesthetics and composition, fine art/commercial applications, and the importance of the images relationship with mass media culture. Students are required to have a digital camera and laptop with image editing software. Six hours of studio work.

**Format**

This is a hybrid course taking place online and on location in Kyoto, Japan. It is comprised of technical demonstrations, readings, videos about art and artists, work days on your personal laptop, and individual fieldtrips to art museums / galleries / spaces in Kyoto. We will have class critiques on your photography, class discussions for videos and contemporary topics and one art visit response papers.

# Required Equipment

 -Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom on your own personal laptop or pro-spec tablet

-Digital Camera. The camera **MUST** have manual aperture and shutter speed adjustments

-memory cards

-card readers

**Objectives:**

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

* Learn the basic components and functions of their digital camera.
* Bring more awareness to taking pictures and to the significance of light.
* Understand the importance of photographic composition fundamentals.
* Understand the basic scientific structure of the digital image.
* Evaluate and manipulate the digital image qualities related to color, light, contrast and tone using an image editor.
* Learn the way image channels work and how they can be controlled.
* Read the photographs of others: Analyze how an image was executed and how the quality of light, framing, perspective, etc., serve to reveal what the photographs are trying to communicate.
* Write a short critique.

**Grading**

Grading Attendance 25%

Writing Assignments 15%

Assignments 60%

Each project is graded, your final grade for assignments is the total of all assignments added together then divided by the number of assignments. Grading criteria for assignments include:

1. Idea/Concept: appropriateness of concept, depth of exploration, awareness of other art and artists, originality, understanding of subject, content and context.

2. Aesthetics/Visual effect: the power and/or attractiveness of the work, an awareness of varying thoughts on design principles.

3. Technique/Craft: formal qualities, technical aptitude, experimentation, execution, final presentation state and layout

**Attendance Policy**

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed no unexcused absences. For an absence to be considered “excused,” it must be medically necessary and approved by the academic director and/or program coordinator of the program. Unexcused absences will affect your final course grade (half grade/5 points will be taken off from your final points for each missed class). Students must be in class on time and should not come in late Sleeping is not permitted in class and it will be treated as an absence. Repeated violations of class or university/program policies may result in ejection from class and/or the program.

**Plagiarism and any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated**

In policies for many, if not all, educational programs, academic honesty is one of the core values of any classroom experience. It basically means that teachers and students treat each other with respect and value the integrity of the teaching/learning relationship by acting honestly and courteously. This course maintains an honest and courteous atmosphere of learning, production and communication. Consider what kinds of classroom behavioral norms and expectations you have.

**Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information.** The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/judicial/>. Academic dishonesty may be penalized, through due process, by failure of an assignment and possibly the course. \* If you plagiarize any images you will automatically receive an F for that assignment

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

**Schedule**

May 13-23 online session, video demos on fundamentals and Photoshop, watch documentary, some online discussion forum responses, first assignment and take photos of place before travel to Kyoto.

May 24th – Arrival in Kyoto.

May 25th – Program Orientation, Campus & City Tour

May 26th – First Day of Class (No class on Fridays)

First Week – Demo on lighting, reflectors, etc. **Portraiture project**

Second Week – Demo as needed, **Landscape project**

Third Week – **Photoshop Collage, Mass media design, Deep Fake project**

Fourth Week – **Street Photography, Candid project**

Fifth Week – **Open Choice project**