

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Communications and the Arts
Programme:	BA Art History and Visual Culture
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Studio Photography
Course Code:	ARTS 5103
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores the technical and contextual possibilities of the photographic studio, an environment and set of tools that are as valid to contemporary photographers as they have been historically. During the course students will gain technical experience of using the studio for creating photographic images, including introductions to cameras, lighting and backdrops, and working with models and objects alongside introductions to industry-standard imaging software. The course will also introduce the historical and contemporary contexts for the studio as a site of image creation, from the early experiments with the medium, to contemporary fine art, fashion and advertising photography.

Prerequisites:

40 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

Aims and objectives of the course include the following:

- Introduce students to the studio environment, including the use of lighting and backdrops.
- Develop skills in working with professional DSLR cameras and lenses.
- Introduce working with models and directions within a studio environment.
- Gain experience of photographing objects such as still-life and products.
- Consider the possibilities of creating their own backdrops and art direction.
- Gain an understanding of how the studio may be used in different contexts such as fashion, marketing, journalism and fine art.
- Experience of creating sequences of images as may be found in advertising campaigns, magazine spreads or exhibitions.
- Introduce the students to a broad range of historical and contemporary studio photography, including visits to museums/exhibitions.

Programme Outcomes:

5AI, 5BI, 5CII, 5DI

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of the key problems and issues addressed in studio photography.
- Demonstrate the ability to engage in critical reflection on quantitative and/or qualitative research of the work of other photographers.
- Deliver photographic work with limited supervision and/or effectively engage in teamwork according to a given brief.
- Demonstrate both critical reflection on ethical principles in the research process and broader discipline of photography, and self-reflect for the capacity of criteria-based evaluation of photographic works.

Indicative Content:

- Working with DSLR cameras and lenses.
- The use of lighting and backdrops.
- Arranging and composing objects for photography.
- Working with models for portrait/self-portraits.
- Developing skills in image manipulation in industry-leading software.
- The creation of a series of images that communicates meanings.
- Gain knowledge of historical and contemporary studio-based photography.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Course material is presented through lectures, demonstrations, discussions and visual presentations. Critique of work produced will take place at the editing stage and upon completion of each project.

Indicative Text(s):

Carroll, H. (2023) *Read this if you want to take great photographs*. Rev. edn. London: Laurence King Publishing.

<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Read-This-If-You-Want-to-Take-Great-Photographs-by-Henry-Carroll/9781399606950>

Child J. (2008) *Studio Photography: Essential Skills*. 4th edn. London: Routledge.

<https://www.routledge.com/Studio-Photography-Essential-Skills/Child/p/book/9780240520964>

*Langford, M. et al. (2024) *Langford's Basic Photography: The Guide for Serious Photographers*. 11th edn. London: Routledge.

<https://www.routledge.com/Langfords-Basic-Photography-The-Guide-for-Serious-Photographers/Langford-Bruce-Fox-SawdonSmith/p/book/9781032397580>

Nath-Sakura (2023) *Product Photography: Lighting, Composition, and Shooting Techniques*. San Rafael, CA: Rocky Nook.

<https://rockynook.com/shop/topics-and-techniques/lighting/product-photography/>

*Wells, L. (2021) *Photography: a critical introduction*. 6th edn. London: Routledge.

<https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/Photography-by-Liz-Wells-editor/9780367222758>

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition document	Nov 2024	