

2018-19 Fall

HART 1038 Introduction to Portrait Photography (1 credit)

Course Instructor: Mr. SUEN Shu Kwan, Leon (Email: visualworker@gmail.com)

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Time: Monday, 10:30 am-12:20 pm

Venue: CYTG009 A&B | Library LG1 (Production Studio & E-Learning Classroom A)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Capturing a person's face with a camera is easy but making a meaningful representation of that person through photography requires not only photographic techniques, but also the ability to communicate, understand and make insightful interpretation of one's personality. In this course, students will acquaint themselves with the history and development of Portraiture in different art forms, learn to analyze portraits taken by master photographers, and acquire knowledge and skills necessary to make a good portrait through hand-on practices and photo editing workshops. Basic photography knowledge is preferred but not necessary.

Camera Requirement

Students need to bring a camera to class, which need not to be a professional one, but it should be equipped with either:

- aperture priority setting (e.g. A/ Av mode) ; OR
- manual setting (M mode)

IMPORTANT NOTE

This course focuses on appreciating and shooting portraiture as a way of communication and expression. This is **NOT** a technical course to step-by-step teach you how to take a photo, but some features on taking a portraiture will be discussed. You will also have abundant opportunities to practice, and taking a good portraiture does not mean just doing the setting right. It is also important that you dare to try and allow errors.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Apply photographic techniques appropriate to the sitter (i.e. person to be photographed), shooting environment and their own emotional responses
- 2 Demonstrate an understanding of the personality of the sitter in taking photos
- 3 Effectively render the personality of the sitter into the photo
- 4 Appreciate the history, development of portrait photography and critically analyze master pieces in this art form

Course Schedule & Outline

Lesson	Date	Topic	Intended Learning Outcomes	Venue
1	3 Sept	History of Portraiture in art - Introduction of the development and trends in Portraiture	ILO 4	CYTG009
2	10 Sept	Lens and Camera - Introduction and practice on how the lens and camera contribute to the visual qualities of the image: influence of lens optic and camera format on the image formation	ILO 4	
3	17 Sept	Light and Medium - Discussion and practice on how the light and medium work to shape the expression: the effect of light intensity, illumination angle and light moderating equipment on the mood of the scene illuminated	ILO 1, 3,4	
4	24 Sept	Understanding the Sitter - Discussion and practice on how to represent a sitter's personality through photos. Students will first take pictures of an unfamiliar classmate (the sitter) without much conversation beforehand; then take another set after communicating with the sitter. Discuss the differences between these 2 sets of photos will be discussed especially on how the sitter is represented	ILO 1, 2, 3	
	1 Oct	Public holiday		
5	8 Oct	Studio Session 1 - Practice the different approaches of portraiture photography as introduced in previous session	ILO 1, 2, 3	Library LG1 (Production Studio)
6	15 Oct	Master pieces 1 - Analyze the works of portraiture photographers such as Yousuf Karsh, Philippe Halsman, Arnold Newman, Richard Avendon	ILO 2, 3, 4	CYTG009
7	22 Oct	Self Portrait - Discuss and practice on how to represent oneself in a portrait: Students will describe in point form about their own self-image, and represent it in a self-portrait through composition, use of lens, lighting and props	ILO 1, 2, 3	CYTG009

8	29 Oct	Studio Session 2 - Further practice the different approaches of portraiture photography as introduced in previous session	ILO 1, 2, 3	Library LG1 (Production Studio)
9	5 Nov	Personal Project Development - Discuss how to formulate a personal project in portraiture Master pieces 2 Further analyze the works of portraiture photographers such as Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, Rineke Dijkstra	ILO 1, 2, 3,4	CYTG009
10	12 Nov	Photo Editing 1 - Post-processing workshop of an image with Photoshop: raw conversion in Photoshop <i>(Remark: This Photo Editing lesson is introductory in nature with the aim to enrich students' understanding of the potential of digital imaging.)</i>	ILO 1	Library LG1 (E-Learning Classroom A)
11	19 Nov	Exhibition Set Up	ILO 1, 2, 3	TBC
12	26 Nov	Presentation - Presentation of their final project at an end-of-course exhibition, accompanied by artwork appreciation and critique	ILO 1, 2, 3	TBC

Assessment Tasks

Attendance (10%) & Participation (10%)	Be punctual, responsive and actively participate in class discussion *Attendance will be taken 10 minutes after the beginning of each session. For each absence, students will have 1% deducted from their attendance grade.
Portrait of Sitter (20%)	(1) Take portrait and discuss in what way the sitter is being represented in the photo. The discussion relates to students' cognitive part of thinking about their photos, on the other hand students will also be invited to write down in point form of how they feel when looking at the photos. This exercise will reveal a photo, which usually carries

	<p>both cognitive and emotional messages. <u>Submission in Lesson 6 (15 Oct).</u></p> <p>(2) The photo and discussion will reflect how well the student is capable of representing a particular personality through the portraits taken.</p>
Self Portrait (20%)	<p>(1) Students will first come up with an initial plan and make their choice of photographic techniques to carry out such plan. Group discussion will be followed to help them to further develop the idea. They will execute the self-portrait and discuss how the self is being represented in the photo. <u>Submission in Lesson 9 (5 Nov).</u></p> <p>(2) This assignment will allow students to use photo as a self-expression medium and apply the photographic techniques learnt in class.</p>
Individual Project (40 %)	<p>(1) Take a series of portraits that help to express certain common personality traits among different sitters. Students have to present the project in A4 size print-outs along with a written artist statement. Depending on the concept students have developed, each of them is expected to hand in 4 photos (unless otherwise negotiated). The artist statement is about 500-1000 words, which includes their ideas, messages, artist/artwork reference on their final portraiture project.</p> <p><u>Submission deadline: 4:00 pm , 9 Nov (Fri) (week 10)</u></p> <p>(2) This is a test of the student's ability in expressing his/her observation of different sitters and forms a holistic artwork in a series of photos. Students need to apply both theories and skills in portrait photography in this project. Through the artist statement, they will learn to delineate their concept with words, and become fully aware of their personal development in artistic expression.</p>

Assignment Submission Policy

10% of mark will be deducted per day in case of late submission

Required Reading Materials

1. *Portraiture*, Richard Brilliant, Harvard University Press, 1991

Supplementary Reading Materials

1. *Secret of Great Portrait Photography: Photographs of the famous and infamous*, Brian Smith, New Riders Publishing, 2012.

http://books.google.com.hk/books?id=wi2p8NCWJvoC&printsec=frontcover&dq=portrait+photography&hl=en&sa=X&ei=KeXgUoSMFYOGiQfmyYG4Dw&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=portrait%20photography&f=false

Academic Honor Code

- You must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work you do throughout your program of study.
- As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
- Sanctions will be imposed if you are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (<http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html>)