

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

Fall 2026

Photography

HUMA1154

[3 Credits]

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the various forms of Photography, explores the relationship between visual communication and art. The course will examine the collaborative process between light and graphic, concepts and skills. The increasing influences of images and trends from visual media will also be discussed.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

1. Understand the usage of camera and lens, skills of photography
2. Apply photographic styles, compositions, usage of light and visual elements
3. Analyze photos through case studies, and the influences in the society
4. Explain the taught concepts and apply analytical skills to photography in both oral and written format"
5. Develop a theme, interpret a concept by a series of photos

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided below, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Mid-Term 1	25%	Week 4
Mid-Term 2	25%	Week 8
Final Project 1	20%	Week 12
Final Project 2	20%	Week 12

* Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within two weeks after students' presentations.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Mid-term 1	[ILO1, ILO2]	These tasks assess students' ability to explore the medium & skills (ILO 1), (ILO 2)
Mid-term 2	[ILO2, ILO4, ILO5]	The specific project aims at documenting the community, communicate and finding stories. ILO2, ILO4. Make a good photo selection with strong visual impact. ILO5
Final Projects 1+2	[ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5]	Through photo project, presentation and photo book reviews assess students' ability to critically evaluate their set of body works. (ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

Grading Rubrics

[These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.]

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Fail
	$\geq 85/100$ A range	$\geq 70/100$ B range	$\geq 55/100$ C range	$\geq 40/100$ D	$< 40/100$ Fail
Photography skills:	Strong sense of "series" with rich storytelling contents, well-composed photographic shots showing a consistent theme and the decisiveness in timing.	A solid sense of "series" photo story with well-composed consistent theme. Diversified visual elements are applied.	Demonstrates some basic photo skills. Standard in compositions, and usage of visual elements on the artworks.	Fair works without much effort are found. A bit weak in overall visuals and a non-set selection.	Weak execution, lack of focus and styles, and poor photo quality selections.
Research/ documentary report	Sufficient information on the research topics, excellent points on analyzing or comparing angles; reasonable findings and relevant good writing skills.	Evidences of regular research works and solid findings of the research topics, some good points on documenting the issue and stories.	Basic attempts on researching, traces of observations and some analyzing angles are found.	Elementary research in related topics, but weak in overall writing.	Inadequate research support and weak learning progresses can be seen.

Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI in project is NOT permitted.

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing, and grades will not be assigned using a curve.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within two weeks of presentations. Feedback on assignments will include comments on strengths and areas for improvement. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Camera Requirement

Students need to bring their OWN camera (**NOT smart phone**) to class, which need not to be a professional one, but it should be equipped with “**Manual mode**” in the shooting mode setting (e.g. M mode).

- *We learned through lectures, exercises, outdoor practice, demo, visits, project consultations, assignments critique and discussions.*

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.