Course Description
This introduction to the visual forms and concepts of the photographic image covers a range of digital techniques along with aspects of the history of photography, and various historical and contemporary movements within the field. Students must provide their own digital camera. Field trips and image presentations supplement the studio aspect of the course. Students will develop the technical and aesthetic skills to make challenging photographs. Technical skills acquired include: digital camera manual functions, basic use of Adobe Photoshop and inkjet printing. Students will also nurture a critical relationship to technological imagery through critique and class discussion. The elements and principles of design (color, line, form, and composition) will serve as a basis by which work will be created: while targeting issues such as the place of art within society as well as cultural aesthetics and how they shape artistic content. Critiques and class discussion will play an integral role in this course, encouraging discussion on how to view and evaluate various types of visual works.

Instructional Objectives
This class will cover several topics surrounding the technical/formal skill needed to create an image and the visual language necessary to engage photographic works critically. Students will learn about digital cameras and how to use and manipulate them internally and externally. Subsequently, time will be spent learning different techniques in Photoshop. After processing the files through Photoshop, the images will be printed using the Epson printers. Various short readings will also be assigned throughout the semester, and will be discussed during class time. Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 8 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (photographing, image editing, printing, readings, writings, preparation for critiques, etc). Following each assignment we will discuss the technical and conceptual components of each student's work in a group critique. We will also view the work of historic and contemporary artists to learn about the various expressive possibilities the medium has to offer. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion because the creation of art is a social act; it is about the exchange of ideas. When a photograph is created and shown it has the power to communicate an experience of distance to a larger audience. We will discuss and analyze how the images we produce have the ability to be a part of that dialogue.

Requirements
1. 100 Photographs minimum weekly
2. Photographic assignments: 2+ photographs per assignment
3. Final project proposal
4. A portfolio of five photographs printed at least 11 x 14 by the end of class
5. Final project artist statement/proposal

**Readings**
*Your Camera’s Manual*
There is a wealth of information in this text that will not be covered in class. There are also a number of cheat sheets available online (Magic Lantern Guides), which are usually a lot thinner.

**Expectations**
*Class Participation – 40%*

**Assignments – 40%**

**Final Project – 20%**

**Attendance**
- Students are expected to attend every class during the session.

- If a student is more than 5 minutes late to class without prior notification accompanied by a reasonable explanation, it counts as an unexcused absence. If homework is due on the day in question, it is considered late and only eligible for half credit the following class. After that, the work is not eligible for any credit.

- Absences must be accompanied by a reasonable explanation and excused. Any students with unexcused absences will have 5 points deducted from their final grade.

- More than 3 excused or unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

**Other Notes:**
- Cell phone use is not permitted in class.

- Students will be respectful of all others in the class. Disrespect will not be tolerated in any form. Those who exhibit this behavior will be asked to leave and be given an unexcused absence for the class.
Materials
***Bring your camera (including it’s USB cord), memory card, manual, and storage device to ALL classes.***

Mandatory
1. Digital Camera: A digital SLR is preferred. Any camera that has FULL manual functions is acceptable.
2. Extra Memory Cards and Battery: It will save you from that moment when you’ve composed the perfect picture and your camera shuts off or blinks “card full.” I recommend using only 4 or 8 GB cards.
3. Electronic Storage: Flash drives/jump drives or portable/external hard drives. This is for saving and archiving of images. I recommend at least an 8GB drive.
4. Tripod: An essential for taking photographs at slow shutter speeds, at night, or for close-ups. Available for checkout at the Getz Media Lab. A small tabletop tripod NOT acceptable!!!
5. Recommended retailers: B&H Photo and Video
   www.bhphotovideo.com

Micro Center
730 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 234-6400
www.microcenter.com

Week 1:
Friday January 12
Introductions/ Syllabus.
Set cameras to RAW.
TECH LECTURE: the not exciting but important things /AKA/ How to use your camera and what all the functions do. ALSO! Rule of thirds, composition, and the formal things that don’t actually matter because there are no real rules ((don’t worry, we’ll eventually be talking about artists in the field and talking about non-tech-y things))
For Next Class:
1. Review your camera’s manual.
2. Make 75 or more different pictures and bring them to class -This can be on a flash drive or on your computer, but make sure they are uploaded somewhere besides being on your camera. Photos must make use of the following: shallow depth of field vs sharp depth of field, images utilizing different composition ratios, and different types of lighting. You are not allowed to use the ‘AUTO’ function on your camera. We will be discussing the aperture and shutter speed in regards to each photo.

Week 2
Tuesday January 16th
**Group discussion**- go over the photos you have taken since last class. What are they doing/achieving? Pick one file- we will be using this to learn basic photo shop intro

**TECH LECTURE**: Basic Photoshop- changing levels, contrast, cropping. How to print a contact sheet in Lightroom

**Assignment**: Open Subject. Carry your camera with you all week to start to see the world differently. Use a variety of depth of fields and types of composition. Shoot between 150 and 200 photographs this week.

**Friday January 19th**

**Group discussion**- go over the photos you have taken since last class. What are they doing/achieving? Select two images to print.

**TECH LECTURE**: Printing demo! Learn how to make a print from the roll printer. Introduction to paper profiles, color handling, and paper types. Following the demo, you will know how to make a print on your own-

**ASSIGNMENT**: Make two prints of the chosen photographs from last class, have these ready to show for a critique next class. Also bring printed contact sheets of these photos.

**Week 3**

**Tuesday January 23rd**

**Group Discussion/critique**: Critique the two prints that were made. Outside of technical/formal aspects, we will be discussing the concept and intent behind these images, and the motivation behind their creation.

**LECTURE**: Lighting//concept vs image// Intro to contemporary photographers and ways of making

**ASSIGNMENT**: Open Subject. Combine 2+ light sources into one image. Take 50 photos, pick one to print. Due Friday

**Friday January 26th**

**Group Discussion/critique**: Go over images from Light Source assignment.

**LECTURE**: Portraiture: Historical & Contemporary

**ASSIGNMENT**: Find a photographer that uses portraiture in their practice. Create a 5 minute presentation. Due next class

**Week 4**

**Tuesday January 30th**

**Artist Presentations**

**ASSIGNMENT**: Take a series of self portraits. Think about setting, space, time, and tonality. How does your image depict mood/feeling? How do you convey this using various camera functions? Do you actually have to be in your photograph? Due next Tuesday the 6th. 2 prints + contact sheets
Friday February 2nd
Lecture: Self Portraiture
Work day

Week 5
Tuesday February 6th
Critique for Self Portrait assignment

Friday February 9th
WORK DAY: ETHICS OF PLACE (less) (ness)
ASSIGNMENT: Visit a brand new, never before seen place (brand new to you). Take at least 50 photographs, and pick 2 photographs from these. Print these photographs for critique next week, along with a contact sheet. Also print 2 photographs from the 2 light sources series. These will be critiqued next week. When you are visiting this new location, email me a brief description of the place, with a quick snapshot. Observe your surroundings, and write a 1 page stream of consciousness reaction- bring this with you to crit next week.

Week 6
Tuesday February 13th
CRIT/DISCUSSION: Show image from last weeks assignment, discuss
LECTURE: Ways of Seeing: Ethics of photography
DISCUSSION: How do you create a ethical photographic/artistic practice? What does this mean to you?
ASSIGNMENT: Find a documentary photographer/photojournalist- prepare a presentation on them to share with the class (5 minutes each). This should cover their personal background and history- create a frame of reference from your point of view in regards to how their practice functions, and how it can be viewed from an ethical standpoint.

Friday February 16th
Artist Presentations
LECTURE: The Contructed Image
ASSIGNMENT: Construct an Image in ‘the studio’ -- this may involve building a set, a diorama, or manipulating space. Use the work we viewed in class as a jump off for your own ideas. Think Big. 2 Photographs. Due next Tuesday the 27th

Week 7
Tuesday February 20th –NO CLASS, midterm recess
Friday February 23rd- NO CLASS, midterm recess
Week 8  
Tuesday February 27th  
Crit for Constructed Image assignment

Friday March 2nd  
Lecture: Critique of Judgement: The Grotesque, The ‘Sublime’  
Discussion: What dictates ‘beauty’?  
ASSIGNMENT: Make something ‘beautiful’ ugly, and something ‘ugly’ beautiful. Think about content, concept, and even color. 2 photos, and due on Tuesday the 17th.  
FOR NEXT WEEK: Bring in an example of an image you think is beautiful vs one you find ugly. Be prepared to share with the class and talk about your reasoning

Week 9  
Tuesday March 6th  
LECTURE: PRETTY/UGLY (continued)  
DISCUSSION: Image share

Friday March 9th  
WORK DAY: A substitute teacher will be available to meet with you one on one and discuss your ideas for your project. Use this as a day to print images, prepare for crit, and edit your work

Week 9  
Tuesday March 13th  
CRIT: Pretty//Ugly

Friday March 16th  
LECTURE: Appropriation  
ASSIGNMENT: Using appropriation as a mechanism, make two photographs that consider the boundaries of the digital medium. Consider what a photograph actually is—do you need to use a camera? If so, why? If not, why? Due next Friday the 27th

Week 10  
Tuesday March 20th  
WORK DAY  
FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT: Propose a final project (topic of your choice. Write a project proposal (1 page, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, NOT double spaced) that describes your idea, artists you are referencing, and how you plan to carry out the project
through photographic images. Proposal is due on Tuesday March 27th via email. Project is due on Tuesday April 24th. Five photographs total + contact sheets

Friday March 23rd
Critique for Appropriation Project

Week 11
Tuesday March 27th
Proposals due (via email)

LECTURE: Narrative
ASSIGNMENT: Create a cast of characters and a narrative. Use photography to document the narrative (staged images). What descriptors are you using to tell a story? 4 images total. Due Tuesday April 10th

Friday March 30th
NO CLASS, SPRING RECESS

Week 13
Tuesday April 3
No CLASS, SPRING RECESS

FRIDAY April 6th
NO CLASS, SPRING RECESS

Week 14
Tuesday April 10th
CRITIQUE for Narrative project.
One on one meetings to discuss proposals

Friday April 13th
WORK/STUDIO DAY.
Assignment: Find an artist that relates to the content of your final project. Prepare a presentation and bring to next class.

Week 15
Tuesday April 17th
Artist presentations

Work Day - I will be available for one on one meetings.

Friday April 20th
LECTURE: Social Media Selfies as Portraiture?
Discussion
Studio time

Week 16
Tuesday April 24th
FINAL CRITIQUE!

HAVE A GOOD BREAK! 😊😊