VM331-1: Photographic Manipulation (4 cr.)

Emerson College — Fall 2021 Syllabus (last revised on 11/15/2021)

Schedule for Synchronous Class Sessions: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Time) Synchronous Online Sessions: via Zoom (See invitation info in your Emerson email, Canvas & calendar)

Professor: Camilo Ramirez – <u>Camilo Ramirez@emerson.edu</u>

Course Materials: Canvas Course 1822762 & www.camramirez.com/teaching.html

Office Hours: Online Zoom Meeting ID: <u>938 1058 2932</u> PW: <u>966933</u> (Please note this differs from class sessions)

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9am-10am, Wednesdays: 1pm-2pm, or by appointment.

Course Description:

This production course explores a range of techniques used in manipulating photographic images. Projects offer students experience with techniques for manipulating their own images using workflows such as physical manipulations, seamless compositing, and emerging A.l. image processors. Students will examine the varied uses manipulated photos over time and how those have led to contemporary digital manipulations in various social contexts. Discussions, readings, and workshops will develop a critical understanding of the creative possibilities and develop the skills to ethically consider the altered image. Projects will combine theory and practice, while group critiques serve to advance both. Prerequisites: VM 110, VM 101, VM 120, and junior standing.

This class may count toward the VMA Photography Minor or <u>Photo BFA Production track</u> with pre-approval. See me individually for more info on this.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the history, theory, and practice of photographic manipulation.
- Develop a critical understanding of their own photographic projects via written & live group critiques.
- Establish essential skills in photographic workflows centered on photo manipulation for a variety of media.
- Learn professional standards and techniques for working with available analog & digital technologies.
- Establish an effective workflows for with industry standard software.

Expectations - Adjusted for COVID-19 Mitigation and our Online Course:

Since we are all entering into this *ONLINE Course* voluntarily and from the beginning, you can expect the following: Students required to complete all assignments on time and attend class as agreed upon. This is a 4 credit course (~4hrs/week) meaning that some of our class will be synchronous and some may be asynchronous. If on Zoom, being present means your camera on at all times and ready to fully participate (or see me during office hours if you have an issue that prevents this). Includes regularly shooting & printing new pictures (or equivalent) and attending each critique with active participation. Coming prepared, with new work or equivalent deliverables to class is required. Students should expect to spend time outside of class for shooting, editing and/or working on new photographs. Students will share work in progress and examples of work that has influenced them, photos, notes, drawings, readings, videos, etc. Each student is responsible for having all required supplies for this course. Check your email daily. I will notify you of any updates or changes to the course during the semester via email.

However, during this pandemic we are all still coping with the effects of this evolving virus, social distancing, teaching and learning in mixed modalities, mastering new technologies and etiquettes, and having varied access to learning resources. Therefore, everyone's health and wellness will come first in this course, and we will work together to adjust for any unplanned events and/or changing needs as they happen. I will strive for the most humane and healthy options available. Students must follow all VMA Covid-19 Guidelines and all college-wide Covid-19 protocols if on campus. This includes wearing a mask at all times, maintaining social distancing, hand sanitation, etc. If you feel sick for any reason, let me know right away, stay in touch, and follow any college screening protocols including self-reporting and quarantine if necessary. The VMA department requires that students read the VMA Covid-19 Safety Guidelines and sign safety forms via the Production Portal.

As part of this, we will generally prioritize the most humane option as being the best choice, and will emphasize:

- Supporting each other as humans
- , Simple solutions that make sense for the most of us
- Sharing resources and communicating clearly
- ▶ Accessible asynchronous content for varied access and contexts when needed
- Synchronous and asynchronous discussions to learn together by sharing feedback, ideas, & work in progress
- Flexibility in realizing that everybody needs support and understanding through this unprecedented time

About Recorded Class Sessions & Consent:

In order to adhere to FERPA requirements and protect everyone's privacy, online classes may be recorded, but only by the instructor, and with express written and unanimous consent of each student in the class as per Emerson's Recording Policy & Consent Form. Any class recordings will only be made available to enrolled students and the instructor until the end of the term.

Mobile Devices:

- The purpose of this policy is to maintain a respectful and equitable learning environment to all.
- The use of mobile devices in class is strictly prohibited unless otherwise instructed.
- Your phone should be turned off and put away when class is in session unless otherwise instructed.
- · Under no circumstances should you ever make or answer phone calls during class.
- Text messaging, web browsing, even checking the screen on your device is also prohibited.

Textbooks (Recommended):

The Photograph as Contemporary Art (3rd Ed.), by Charlotte Cotton, ISBN: 978-0500204184
Faking It: Manipulated Photography before Photoshop, by Mia Fineman, ISBN: 978-0300185010
Believing Is Seeing: Observations on the Mysteries of Photography, by Errol Morris, ISBN: 978-0143124252
The Reconfigured Eye: Visual Truth in the Post-Photographic Era, by William J. Mitchell, ISBN: 978-0262631600

Supplies and Materials:

Required Supplies and Materials:

- Your Emerson mail address that you regularly check
- A computer, internet and/or devices that can run the Adobe Suite, connect to the web, and allow for synced Video
- A Digital-SLR camera with manual aperture and shutter speed controls (or a device with RAW capability)
- The following software (Photoshop, Bridge, Lightroom, Zoom, Google Suite via your Emerson login)
- · Any form of portable digital media that you can use to easily store and backup your work
- · Journal/Notebook for use as an Exposure/Technical Log, class notes, jotting ideas and thoughts

Recommended Supplies and Materials:

- · Tripod & remote-release for your D-SLR
- Display Calibrator, such as an i1 Display Pro (typically available for checkout at the EDC)

Getting your Supplies:

If you do not have access to any of the <u>Required Supplies and Materials</u> above, please schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible. I may be able to guide you to Emerson College Resources to supplement what you have available, but it is urgent to communicate this very quickly.

Equipment: The least expensive way to buy film and supplies is online through stores such as <u>B&H</u> and <u>Adorama</u>. Locally, you can try <u>Hunt's</u> in Cambridge and Kenmore Square, and <u>Newtonville Camera</u> in Newton. For camera equipment you should also try <u>Joe & Karen's Cameras</u> (617- 770-3446), they have excellent prices. Emerson provides students with the Adobe Suite and and more hadware/software support, visit (<u>support.emerson.edu</u>). When shopping anywhere, ways remember to ask for a student discount.

<u>Digital Camera Review Sites:</u> These sites are a good start when shopping for digital equipment, especially cameras. http://www.steves-digicams.com/ & http://www.dpreview.com/

Grading and Standards:

Grades will be earned in points throughout the semester by completing assignments, critiques and their deliverables. The total points possible and all grading criteria are specified in each Project Description sheet. The three Project Critiques are weighed with the highest values.

The total points earned throughout the term are factored against total possible points into a percentage which determines the Final Course Grade according to this **Course Grade Scale**:

COURSE GRADE SCALE

Α	93% - 100%	C+	77% - 79%
A-	90% - 92%	С	73% - 76%
B+	87% - 89% *	C-	70% - 72%
В	83% - 86%	D	60% - 69%
B-	80% - 82%	F	59% and under *

Apart from assignment grading: absences, tardies, leaving class early, and being unprepared can also negatively affect your Course Grade as stated in the following Attendance Policy section.*

Attendance Policy:

During this pandemic, everyone's health and wellness takes priority over any attendance policy, therefore health guidelines will override the following requirements and I will work with you to the best of my ability toward the most humane and healthy options available, while doing my best to maintain equity for everyone in the course. However, if you are experiencing any attendance issues it is your responsibility to communicate with me and to work together, proactively if possible on any alternate plans. Also follow any Covid-19 protocols including self-reporting and quarantine if necessary. Communication is key.

- Outside of Covid-19 policies and accommodations, attendance is essential to this course as described below:
- Attendance scores are based on attending the scheduled Zoom synchronous class sessions.
- · Good attendance is absolutely critical to this course.
- · Late work is unacceptable and may only be accepted/graded at my discretion.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to deliver your work on the due date.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and turn in any pending work.
- · If absent, it is your responsibility to find out if the Course Calendar/Schedule has been updated.
- Poor attendance can negatively affect your Course Grade as described in the following tables.*

TARDIES, etc.	COUNT AS:
1 Tardy	½ of an Absence
1 Early Class Departure	½ of an Absence
Coming to Class Unprepared	1/2 of an Absence

ABSENCES	COUNT AS:
1 Absence	Course Grade not affected
2 Absences *	Course Grade is no greater than B+
3 Absences *	Automatic F (Course Failure)

For additional information on attendance see the Student Handbook: https://www.emerson.edu/policies/attendance

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct Statement:

It is the responsibility of all Emerson students to know and adhere to the College's policy on plagiarism. If you have any questions concerning the Emerson plagiarism policy or about documentation of sources in work you produce in this course, you should speak to your instructor. Also see the Student Handbook for more information: https://www.emerson.edu/departments/student-affairs/undergraduate-student-handbook/academic-standards-resources#AcademicMisconduct

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Emerson is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations, so that each student may fully participate in the Emerson experience. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff will be working remotely for the fall of 2020. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact them at SAS@emerson.edu or at (617) 824-8592 to make an appointment with an SAS staff member. Students are encouraged to contact SAS early in the semester. Please be aware that accommodations are not applied retroactively.

Emerson College Title IX Statement:

I am a responsible employee at Emerson College which means I am not a confidential resource. I will keep your information as private as I can, however, if you disclose information that may violate Emerson's Power-based Interpersonal Violence Policy I must report it to the Title-IX Coordinator. You may also contact the College Title-IX Coordinator. You may also contact the College Title-IX Coordinator. Alternatively, If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Healing & Advocacy Collective, Counseling and Psychological Services, or Health and Wellness.

VMA Safety Statements/Guidelines, Acknowledgement:

Safety is always a concern on any film or video set; safety training is also a requirement for employment in the production industry. Emerson supports safety measures and requires safety training through seminars and the VMA Student Production Safety Manual is required reading for all students participating on any Emerson film.

Students participating in any Emerson film or video production must meet all requirements as set forth by the Emerson College Safety Manual and Lenny Manzo, the Director of Production and Safety (DPS).

Students with questions or concerns should contact **Lenny Manzo** (DPS) at (617) 824-8126 or leonard_manzo@emerson.edu. In case of emergency, the PRODUCTION SAFETY HOTLINE can be reached 24/7 at (617) 939-1311.

As an addendum to the <u>VMA Student Production Safety Manual</u>, the VMA department requires that production students read the <u>VMA Covid-19 Safety Guidelines</u>, sign sign safety forms via the <u>Production Portal</u>. Please follow these links sign any required forms by the first week of classes.

Working with Minors Statement:

All Students will familiarize themselves with the College's <u>policies on minors</u>. At no time is a student to be one-on-one with a minor without a guardian present. For more information from VMA on Safety or Working with Minors please visit: https://www.emerson.edu/sites/default/files/Files/VMA%20Safety%20Manual%20Update%207-7-21.pdf

Diversity Statement:

Every student in this class will be honored and respected as an individual with distinct experiences, talents, and backgrounds. Students will be treated fairly regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, disability, socio-economic status, or national identity. Issues of diversity may be a part of class discussion, assigned material, and projects. The instructor will make every effort to ensure that an inclusive environment exists for all students.

Course Calendar:

- The following schedule is subject to change at my discretion.
- Late work is unacceptable and may only be accepted/graded at my discretion.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to deliver your work on the due date.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and turn in any pending work.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out if the Course Calendar/Schedule has been updated.

Class	Date	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#1	Thu 9/2	 Introduction to the course Review syllabus Online Class Materials Email Communication Test Covid Forms & Certifications Recording Consent Forms (if needed) Introduction to Project #1 	-	 Obtain all required course materials. Email test due by Sunday Read Project #1 worksheet Bring your charged D-SLR to class Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#2	Tue 9/7	Digital Imaging Primer Manual Camera Operation & <u>Digital Capture Terms</u> Discuss Project #1 Physical Manipulations	 Obtain all required course materials. Email test due by Sunday Read Project #1 worksheet Bring your charged D-SLR to class Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	 Reading for in-class Discussion Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF) VMA Covid Safety Guidelines Form VMA Covid Captain Course Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#3	Thu 9/9	Reading Discussion HD Setup for Lightroom & Backups Lightroom Importing Images	 Reading for in-class Discussion Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF) VMA Covid Safety Guidelines Form VMA Covid Captain Course Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	 Set up your hard-drive LR Library, backups, etc. Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#4	Tue 9/14	Artist Journals Basic RAW workflow for color Lab Time / Individual Meetings	 Set up your hard-drive LR Library, backups, etc. Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	 Create your Artist Journal Begin Processing your Images Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#5	Thu 9/16	Sequencing to aid your concept Sorting and rating Tools in LR Exporting from Lightroom for Online Albums Setting up Online Albums	 Create your Artist Journal Begin Processing your Images Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	 Revise your statement if needed Be prepared to discuss your written statement with the class as well as discuss your peers'. Set up shared online albums Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#6	Tue 9/21	Read written statements out loud & show work in progress (contact sheets / journals)	 Revise your statement if needed Be prepared to discuss your written statement with the class as well as discuss your peers'. Set up shared online albums Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Begin narrowing down your final critique sequence
#7	Thu 9/23	Total Workflow Review Review of Project 1 Deliverables & Critique Guidelines Question & Answer session	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Begin narrowing down your final critique sequence 	 8 Processed RAW Photos Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album

Class	Date	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#8	Tue 9/28	Critique for Project 1 (Group A)	 Group A, B & C Deliverables: DUE 8 Processed RAW Photos Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album Revised Written Statement, if needed 	 Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#9	Thu 9/30	<u>Critique for Project 1 (Group B)</u>	Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers	 Group A & B: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#10	Tue 10/5	• Critique for Project 1 (Group C) • Introduction to Project 2	 Group A & B: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers 	 Group C: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Finish Online Discussion Feedback for your peers Read Project #2 worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 2 proposal (PDF) Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Add Album Links for Project #2
#11	Thu 10/7	 Discuss Project #2 - Constructed & Seamless Composites Digital Image Anatomy & Basic Color Theory Breakout Sessions – Presenting New Reflection Insights & proposed ideas for Proj #2 	 Finish Online Discussion Feedback for your peers Read Project #2 worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 2 proposal (PDF) Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent Add Album Links for Project #2 	 Readings for in class Discussion Revise your statement if needed Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent
#12	Tue 10/12	Reading DiscussionPhotographing for compositesProject Check-ins	 Readings for in class Discussion Revise your statement if needed Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent 	 Reading (TBD) Write down at least 2 questions in advance for our Guest Artist Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#13	Thu 10/14	Visiting Artist	 Reading (TBD) Write down at least 2 questions in advance for our Guest Artist Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. 	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue progress on your Artist Journal
#14	Tue 10/19	 Integrating Lightroom & Photoshop Workflows Global vs. Local Adjustments Photoshop Selections & Compositing Making Selections for Local adjustments 	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue progress on your Artist Journal 	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your composites
#15	Thu 10/21	Color Management & ICC Profiles Lab Time / Individual Meetings	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your composites	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your composites
#16	Tue 10/26	 Total Workflow Review Review of Project 2 Deliverables & Critique Guidelines Question & Answer session 	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your composites	 6 Final composite images Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album

Class	Date	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#17	Thu 10/28	Critique for Project 2 (Group A)	 Group A, B & C Deliverables: DUE 6 Processed RAW Photos Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album Revised Written Statement, if needed 	 Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#18	Tue 11/2	<u>Critique for Project 2 (Group B)</u>	Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers	 Group A & B: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#19	Thu 11/4	• Critique for Project 2 (Group C) • Introduction to Project 3	 Group A & B: Reflection Period—	 Group C: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Finish Online Discussion Feedback for your peers Read Project #3 worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 3 proposal (PDF) Add Album Links for Project #3 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent
#20	Tue 11/9	 Late Critique Presentations Discuss Project #3 - Constructed & Seamless Composites Presentation of various artists/works 	 Finish Online Discussion Feedback for your peers Read Project #3 worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 3 proposal (PDF) Add Album Links for Project #3 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent 	 Revise your statement if needed Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent
>	11/11	No Class - Veteran's Day	-	• See Above
#21	Tue 11/16	 Presenting Proposed Ideas for Proj #3 Presentation of various artists/works 	Revise your statement if needed Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent	Reading: Damage Control Write down at least 2 questions in advance for our Guest Artist Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.
#22	Thu 11/18	 Reading Discussion Contemporary & Experimental Techiniques 	Reading: Damage Control Write down at least 2 questions in advance for our Guest Artist Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent.	 Reading: Fever Pitch - Pelle Cass in Motion Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue progress on your Artist Journal
#23	Tue 11/23	Visiting Artist (Assigned Reading)	Reading: Fever Pitch - Pelle Cass in Motion Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue progress on your Artist Journal	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your final project
>	11/25	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	-	• See Above
#24	Tue 11/30	Output workflows for print, press, and <u>Saving for Web</u>	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your final project	Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your final project
#25	Thu 12/2	 Review of Project 3 Deliverables & Critique Guidelines Question & Answer session Presentation of various artists/works 	 Shoot 50 new RAW or equivalent. Continue work your final project 	 10 Final manipulated images Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album

Class	Date	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#26	Tue 12/7	Critique for Project 3 (Group A)	 Group A, B & C Deliverables: DUE 10 Final Manipulated Images Arrange final images so they appear in a sequence in your Critique Album 300 Photos in Contact Sheets Album Artist Journal Progress in Album Revised Written Statement, if needed 	 Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#27	Thu 12/9	• Critique for Project 3 (Group B)	 Group A: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups B & C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers 	 Group A & B: Reflection Period— Collect new research materials for Journals, consider feedback, etc. Groups C: Prepare to Present Everyone: Online Discussion Feedback for your peers
#28	Tue 12/14	Critique for Project 3 (Group C)	 Group A & B: Reflection Period—	 Finish Online Discussion Feedback for your peers before midnight Nothing else due next week as this is our final class. Keep up with your photo practice and stay in touch!