Class Description:

There are no prerequisites for this course. A digital SLR camera is required.

Photo I introduces the students to the basic use of the camera, the use of the darkroom and Adobe Photoshop post-processing. This course is addressed to students who have no knowledge of photography. It will familiarize them with the fundamental techniques necessary for a creative use of photography. At the beginning of the course, students will use black & white film and will print in the darkroom. Subsequently, they will be introduced to digital photography and post-production with Adobe Photoshop. This course will give a comprehensive overview of the basic tools that concern both analog and digital photography. Through lectures and demo in the photo studio, students will have the opportunity to personally experience the creative potential of photography and the languages linked to it. Assignments will include technical topics such as depth of field, shutter speed, digital color management. Students will learn how to correctly expose, how to develop black & white film, and how to print in the darkroom. They will also learn the main features of digital photography, development of RAW files, basic use of digital post-production, digital printing.

The course includes lectures, presentations, demos, shooting sessions, discussions and critiques of photographs produced by the students. Class meets every week, three hours per week.

Lectures and Practice Labs are held on Thursday 2:00/5:00pm. Always refer to the syllabus as there might be some exceptions through the semester, in particular in the last weeks. Labs: all computers on campus are equipped with Adobe Photoshop. You also have access to the Digital Lab and the Darkroom Lab at Fondazione Studio Marangoni in Via San Zanobi 32R, Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please note that access to FSM’s Labs is granted upon availability. To ensure your space/time slot make a reservation via email with Elisa Perretti, FSM tech assistant, elisa.perretti@gmail.com and cc your instructor Giuseppe Toscano gt35@nyu.edu. Always make sure you receive a confirmation email before coming to FSM, as access could be declined due to previous reservations made by other classes/students.
Classroom location: The course is held at Fondazione Studio Marangoni in downtown Florence - San Lorenzo area, three blocks away from Piazza San Marco, where bus 25 stops. These are the addresses: fsmgallery in Via San Zanobi 19R (classroom and library), and FSM in Via San Zanobi 32R (darkroom and digital lab). Remember that Florence has a singular address system with two number sequences running side by side. Residences have a number in black or blue, while businesses have numbers in red. Lectures and critiques are held in Via San Zanobi 19R, while the darkroom and the digital lab is located in Via San Zanobi 32R. The library is located in Via San Zanobi 19R. It is entirely dedicated to photography, with over 4,000 books. It is open Monday to Saturday from 3 to 7pm. 70% of the books are in English, and NYU students are encouraged to make use of it.

Instructor Details:
Name: Giuseppe Toscano
NYU Global Home Email Address: gt35@nyu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment
Villa Ulivi Office Location: /
Villa Ulivi Phone Number:+39 055 5007 300

Desired Outcomes:
[Modified by the instructor]
Upon completion of the course, students will have basic skills of:

- analog and digital camera settings; exposure metering; depth of field
- black & white film processing; darkroom techniques
- digital image developing; Adobe Photoshop post-processing; digital printing

Assessment Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Written Assignments (two 3 page reaction papers): 20%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Oral Presentation of 10 minute length: 15%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
Course grades are based on class participation and discussion, assignments, critiques, quantity and quality of energy and imagination invested in each assignment, execution of photographic theory in practice, oral presentation and final critique. Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect course grade. Tardiness to class is not tolerated as it disrupts the class in session.

Students are required to read the literature and watch the videos indicated in the bibliography for each class.

Students are required to take photographs on a regular basis. Some classes may be dedicated to shooting on site.

**Assessment Expectations:**

- **Grade A:** The student’s photographic work demonstrates an excellent understanding of the subject. The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays/exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

- **Grade B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of the assignments and materials covered in class. The candidate has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

- **Grade C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in the assignments and covered in class. The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

- **Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research. The student does not participate in class discussion.

- **Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assignments and covered in class. There is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grading Guidelines**

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 94-100 \\
A \text{ minus} &= 90-93 \\
B \text{ plus} &= 87-89 \\
B &= 84-86
\end{align*}
\]
B minus =80-83
C plus =77-79
C=74-76
C minus =70-73
D plus =67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

**Grading Policy:**
Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work

**Academic Accommodations:**
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see the Moses Center for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

**Attendance Policy:**
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to the number of class times over a single week.

**Excused Absences:**
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student. **The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:**
Absence Due to Illness

- If you are sick, please see a doctor. Contact the Office of Student Life for assistance.
- For absences that last for two or more consecutive days, a doctor’s certificate, “certificato medico” is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor and cannot be written for you afterwards.
- Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 48 HRS of your return to class via the online NYU Florence Absence Form
- OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness
- OAS will only notify faculty of absences REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences

Due to Religious Observance

- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday
- Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form

- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity

- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by the academic program
- Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

Late Submission of Work

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date
• To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

Plagiarism Policy

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:
The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, the faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school.
Writing Center:
The Writing Center, located in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting; very rough drafts are welcome. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center's website and submit your working draft or ideas at least six hours in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. You can drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Please also note that the Writing Center does not correct or “fix” your writing but prompts you to think and work. The aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.

Required Text(s):
(Availables on-line)

Michael Langford, Anna Fox, Richard Sawdon Smith, and Richard Sawdon Smith
Langford's Basic Photography : The Guide for Serious Photographers
Taylor & Francis Group

Martin Evening
Adobe Photoshop CC for Photographers : A professional image editor’s guide to the creative use of Photoshop for the Macintosh and PC
Taylor & Francis Group
Copies of each textbook are available for consultation and short term loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Extra copies of some textbooks are also available for semester long loans. More information on Books and Course Materials.

Supplemental Texts(s):
(Available on line)


Texts that students are not required to are in NYU-FL Library or available on line

Internet Research Guidelines:
The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

Additional Required Equipment:
● DSLR or mirrorless camera with manually adjustable aperture and speed.
● Cord to connect camera to computer
● Hard drive (preferably) or flash drive to backup work.
Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 – September 5:
Introduction to the course and the syllabus: course requirements and course objectives, text, materials

Lecture:
An introduction to the camera and the lens: how they function

Assignment #1 due September 12:
Shooting: Shoot the first black & white film.

Assignment #2 due October 24:
Shooting: Photographing Florence in black & white - 5 black & white prints

READING:
Michael Langford, Langford's Basic Photography (Chapter 3 Lenses: controlling the image pp. 50-57).

OPTIONAL READING:
Michael Langford, Langford's Basic Photography (Chapter 4 Cameras using film pp. 64-89)

VIDEO:
www.lynda.com Foundations of photography: exposure by Ben Long (chapter 2, 4 and 5)

Session 2 - September 12:
Film processing

READING:
Michael Langford, Langford's Basic Photography (Chapter 11 Film processing pp. 264-278)

Shooting requirement 1 roll
Session 3 - September 19:

The darkroom: contact sheets and prints

READING:
Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography* (Chapter 13 black & white printing: techniques pp. 314-316)

OPTIONAL READING:
Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography* (Chapter 12 black & white printing: facilities and equipment pp. 289-311)

Shooting requirement 1 roll

Session 4 – September 24:

**Forced Labour** La Pietra Dialogues

*Photographers Lina Pallotta and Stefania Prandi*, Organized by Alessandra Capodacqua and Davide Lombardo, NYU Florence

Session 5 - September 26:

[site visit] Shooting session (Mercato San Lorenzo)

Shooting requirement 1 roll

Session 6 - October 3:

The darkroom: dodge and burn

READING: Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography* (Chapter 13 black & white printing: techniques pp. 314-316)

OPTIONAL READING:
Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography* (Chapter 12 black & white printing: facilities and equipment pp. 289-311)

Shooting requirement 1 roll

Session 7 - October 10:

Practice in darkroom: film development and printing

READING:
Shooting requirement 1 roll

**Session 8 - October 17:**
Practice in darkroom: film development and printing

**READING:**
Michael Langford, Langford's Basic Photography (*Chapter 5 Using different focal length lenses, camera kits* pp. 92-105)

**Session 9 – October 24:**
Mid-term exam - Review of assignment #2

**Session 10 - November 7:**
/site visit/ Giardino di Boboli

Introduction to digital photography: setting the camera - Practical demo

**Assignment #3 due December 12:**
Shooting: Photographing Europe in color - 5 digital color prints

**Assignment #4 due November 14:**
Selection of 5 images

**VIDEO:**
[www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com) *Foundations of photography: exposure* by Ben Long (*chapter 7, 8 and 9*)

**OPTIONAL READING:**
Michael Langford, *Langford's Basic Photography* (*Chapter 6 Digital cameras* pp. 114-129)

**Session 11 - November 14:**
Adobe Bridge and Camera Raw: download and develop RAW files

**Review of Assignment #4**

**Assignment #5 due November 28:**
5 images edited in Photoshop

**READING:**
Martin Evening, *Adobe Photoshop CC for photographers* (*Chapter 1 Photoshop Fundamentals* pp. 73-85, pp. 176-211)

VIDEO:
www.lynda.com *Photoshop CC 2013: Essential Training by Julieanne Kost* (*chapter 1 and 3*)

**Session 12 - November 21:**

Shooting session: Studio lights

**Assignment #6 due November 28:**

5 images with adjustments layers and masks

READING:
Martin Evening, *Adobe Photoshop CC for photographers* (*Chapter 1 Photoshop Fundamentals* pp. 3-55 and *Chapter 5 Image Editing Essentials* pp. 403-409)

VIDEO:
www.lynda.com *Photoshop CC 2013: Essential Training by Julieanne Kost* (*chapter 7*)

**Session 13 - November 28:**

Adobe Photoshop: masks and adjustments layers

**Review of Assignment #5 and #6**

Shooting requirement 30 digital

READING:

VIDEO:
www.lynda.com *Photoshop CC 2013: Essential Training by Julieanne Kost* (*chapter 11 and 12*)

**Session 14 – December 5:**

The digital print and color management: prepare images for printing

READING:
Martin Evening, *Adobe Photoshop CC for photographers* (*Chapter 12 Print output*)

**Session 15 - December 12:**

Final exam

**Final review of assignment #3**
Classroom Etiquette

- Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings.

Required Co-curricular Activities

[site visit] Shooting session (Mercato San Lorenzo)

[site visit] Giardino di Boboli

Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.

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Your Instructor

Giuseppe Toscano was born in Catania, and lives and works in Florence. In 2003 he graduated in photography at Fondazione Studio Marangoni, Florence, where he started to teach photography techniques and to coordinate educational activities. He is also the project manager of the online magazine m-mag contemporary photography. He currently teaches photography at New York University Florence, Sarah Lawrence College in Florence, and Berkeley Preparatory School. As a photographer, Giuseppe is interested in the documentation of the Italian landscape, with a focus on the Southern regions. His photographs have been shown in numerous exhibitions in Italy and Europe including: Saadun, curated by Denise Vernillo, Zweistein Exhibition Space, Munich, Germany; Backlight05, Triennial Festival of Photography, Museum Vapriikki, Tampere, Finland; Children are not like us, Wolkersdorf Castle, Austria; Antonino Paraggi Gallery, Treviso ; SI Fest 2007, Savignano sul Rubicone; Tempi Osceni, Galerie Nei Liicht, Dudelange, Luxembourg.

To pursue his interest for new technologies and their application in photography, he graduated in Technology of Communication and Multimedia at the University of Ferrara in 2011.