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del Sacro Cuore



**Ramon Llull University, IQS School of Management - Barcelona
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan
Franklin University Switzerland - Lugano
Forum-Nexus Program
Undergraduate Division**

Course Syllabus

**PHO 490-SIS
Travel and Adventure Photography**

Course Description

Students involved in study abroad programs like Forum-Nexus are passionate about traveling and discovering the magic of new cultures, different people, amazing cities, great art and architecture, breathtaking landscapes, quaint villages, and so much more. Many of these students desire to acquire the skills and creativity to capture these new experiences through quality photographs, which can then be assembled into polished photographic portfolios shared through social media, or even published in professional publications. The purpose of this course is to provide the fundamentals of travel and adventure photography, and to encourage students to view photography as storytelling and develop their own style and identity as travel photographers.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the basic principles of travel and adventure writing, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand how to use and operate their photography gear
2. Learn how to create the best composition
3. Explore travel photography as storytelling
4. Learn how to capture the essence of their travels through photography
5. Learn the key elements to accomplish a compelling photograph
6. Understand how to control and capture light
7. Master the techniques for proper aperture and depth of field
8. Understand the correct use of captions
9. Become familiar with RAW and JPEG file formats
10. Learn about proper exposure
11. Understand the nuances of landscape photography, including urban photography
12. Master portrait and nighttime techniques
13. Acquire basic post-processing skills
14. Learn how to design and publish a photography portfolio
15. Become familiar with the works of famous travel photographers and critically assess them

Course Requirements

This course requires independent study, experimentation, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS supervising instructor regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a final exam, and five assignments.

Students are also required to participate in a minimum of three Forum-Nexus professional visits and three cultural visits. Students may also pursue individual visits to companies and organizations as part of their independent study.

Assignment #1 – About the Basics Essay (minimum length: 500 words)

- Summarize the following topics related to travel and adventure photography:
 - Sensors: Pixels, resolution, and size
 - ISO, noise, and compression
 - Choosing the best format for your photos
 - Raw and JPEG formats
 - Saturation and light

Assignment #2 – Exploring Aperture and Exposure

- Prepare a document showing the following:
 - Take 3 photos of an iconic subject during the program
 - Take 3 photos that tell a story
 - Using the same subject, take 3 photos experimenting with 3 different ISO settings (low, medium, and high)
 - Using the same subject, take 3 photos showing 3 different apertures.
 - Using the same subject, take 3 photos using 3 different shutter speeds.
- Make notes of each setting and analyze your results, reflecting on what was successful or challenging about each photo.
- Note: Do not edit any of your photos.

Assignment #3 – Exploring Composition

- Prepare a document showing the following:
 - Take 3 photos with the Rule of Thirds technique
 - Take 3 photos experimenting with depth of field
 - Take 3 photos experimenting with focus modes (do not use autofocus)
 - Take a vertical photo and a horizontal photo
 - Take 3 photos with the concept of frame
- Make notes of each approach and analyze your results, reflecting on what was successful or challenging about each photo.
- Note: Do not edit any of your photos.

Assignment #4 – Exploring Light and Movement

- Prepare a document showing the following:
 - Take a photo during the Golden Hour
 - Take 4 photos experimenting with movement (blurred, frozen, etc.)
- Make notes of each approach and analyze your results, reflecting on what was successful or challenging about each photo.
- Note: Do not edit any of your photos.

Assignment #5 – Photographing Subjects

- Prepare a document showing the following:
 - Take a portrait photo
 - Take a photo of a group
 - Take a photo that captures life (people) in the city
 - Take a photo of people at night
 - Take a photo of a monument or building
 - Take a photo of food and/or a drink
- Make notes about each photo and analyze your results, reflecting on what was successful or challenging about each photo.
- Note: Do not edit any of your photos.

Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:

- Summary of your goals and objectives
- Recap of your successful and challenging photography experiences
- Highlight 2 photographs
 - Show the images before and after editing
 - Add captions
 - Tell the story behind the photos
- Reflection on what you've learned through the SIS course

Required Equipment

Students may choose any camera, as long as it has the option of choosing shutter-speed and aperture manually. Most laptops have a built-in editing software, but students may download or purchase software.

Required Reading

Lonely Planet's Guide to Travel Photography

by Richard l'Anson
Lonely Planet, 5th Edition, 2016
(Kindle version recommended)

Recommended Readings

National Geographic Ultimate Field Guide to Travel Photography

National Geographic, 2010

Lonely Planet's Best Ever Photography Tips

Lonely Planet, 2013

Digital Photography Outdoors: A Field Guide for Travel and Adventure Photographers

by James Martin
Mountaineers Books, 2nd edition, 2007

How to Shoot Great Travel Photos

by Susan McCartney
Allworth Press, 2007

Travel Photography: Documenting the World's People and Places

by Bob Krist

Lark Photography Books, 2008

Lonely Planet Urban Photography

by Richard I'Anson

Lonely Planet, 2006

Components of Final Grade

Assignment #1	12%
Assignment #2	12%
Assignment #3	12%
Assignment #4	12%
Assignment #5	12%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale

93-100 %	A
90-92.9 %	A-
87-89.9 %	B+
83-86.9 %	B
80-82.9 %	B-
77-79.9 %	C+
73-76.9 %	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9 %	D+
63-66.9 %	D
60-62.9 %	D-
Below 60 %	F

Course Outline

Module 1: Getting Started

- Getting the correct gear
- Understanding sensors
- ISO, noise, and compression
- Choosing the best format for your photos
- Image files
- Saturation and light
- Backup copies, sharing, and printing

Module 2: The Art of Photography

- Pre-visualization
- Storytelling
- Exposure, ISO, and film speeds
- Aperture and depth of field
- Controlling light and motion
- Iconic images

Module 3: Composition

- Point of interest

- The Rule of Thirds
- How to take advantage of different autofocus modes and depth of field
- Choosing your viewpoint and perspective
- How to frame a photograph
- Horizontal or vertical?
- How to achieve scale and space

Module 4: Light and Movement

- Morning, afternoon, and the Golden Hour
- Silhouettes and back lighting
- Reflection
- Controlling the flash
- Movement: Freezing, panning

Module 5: The Subjects

- Portraits
- Communication with strangers
- Photographing groups
- Everyday photos
- Take advantage of your surroundings and transmit the feeling into a photograph: Landscapes or cityscapes
- Taking photos with low light
- Ambiance and nightlife
- Food and drink

Module 6: Editing

- Importing photos from your camera
- Enhancing photos with the camera software
- Editing with sophisticated programs
- Adobe Lightroom and other programs for organizing your photographs
- What is metadata?
- Editing tools
- Cropping, adjusting lines, white balance, and exposure
- Color, contrast, and saturation
- Raw, JPEG, TIFF file formats

Schedule of Classes and Visits

The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at www.forum-nexus.com/schedules.

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.