

**COURSE DATA****Data Subject**

<b>Code</b>	36578
<b>Name</b>	Photography theory and technique
<b>Cycle</b>	Grade
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Academic year</b>	2023 - 2024

**Study (s)**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Center</b>	<b>Acad. year</b>	<b>Period</b>
1333 - Degree in Audiovisual Communication	Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication	2	First term

**Subject-matter**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Subject-matter</b>	<b>Character</b>
1333 - Degree in Audiovisual Communication	10 - Tecnologías de los medios audiovisuales	Obligatory

**Coordination**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
RENARD ALVAREZ, SANTIAGO	340 - Language Theory and Communication Sciences

**SUMMARY**

In the lectures the essential concepts on this subject will be explained:

-Basic concepts of optics: nature and properties of light, composition of the visible spectrum, reflection, diffraction and refraction, different types of lenses and objectives, its characteristics and properties.

-Fundamentals of the photographic image: image formation in the camera obscura, pinhole focused image, depth of field, conjugated distances.

-Photo-sensitive materials: chemical photography, silver halide and processing; digital photography: electronic sensors, processors, different types of digital files.

-The photographic camera, types and formats



-Introduction to the history of photography: although there is no place here for a discipline such as history itself, the beginnings of the invention and its first steps of evolution will be explained.

-Theoretical reflection on the role of photography as a specific means of expression in the universe of contemporary communication. We will resort to an already long tradition of semiotic studies on this subject in order to understand the status of photography as a very special type of sign and its relationship with concepts such as art, reality, convention, truth, lie, intention or manipulation.

In the practical lessons, developed in the Audiovisual Workshops, students will learn and develop the use of digital SLR cameras and computer processing of digital images in various formats, primarily Raw, JPEG, TIFF and PSD.

They will experience with various motifs and genres, especially portrait, capturing moving objects, the range of different focal lengths and creative photography.

They will put to work various techniques involving processing and manipulation of light and colour. They will make photomontages and experiment with different types of lighting, primarily natural light in various situations (using manual adjustment of the parameters of aperture, exposure time and sensitivity) and will have the opportunity to practise artificial lighting with the electronic flashes from the photo studio.

In the architecture workshop, they will also be able to check the properties and operation of the large format camera, although their assessable photographic exercises will be done exclusively with digital SLR cameras (APS-C).

## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### Relationship to other subjects of the same degree

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### Other requirements

Not required

## OUTCOMES

### 1333 - Degree in Audiovisual Communication

- Students should have the capacity and creativity to take expressive and thematic risks within the availability and time constraints of the communicative production, applying solutions and perspectives based on the development of the projects.
- Students should have an understanding of the different languages, codes and modes of representation used in the different technological and audiovisual mediums such as photography, cinema, radio, television, electronic image and video, internet etc., through their own individual industries and aesthetics, as well as through the evolution of their social and cultural relevance through time. This should generate the ability to analyse stories and audiovisual works, considering



the iconic messages of the texts as products of the social, political and cultural conditions in which they were produced.

- Conocimiento teórico-práctico de las tecnologías aplicadas a los medios de comunicación audiovisuales (fotografía, radio, sonido, televisión, vídeo, cine, y soportes multimedia), incluyendo la capacidad para utilizarlos en la construcción y manipulación de los diversos productos que abarca el ámbito de la comunicación audiovisual.
- Students should have both a theoretical and practical understanding of the scientific fundamentals of optics and the ability to process measurements in relation to the amount of light and chromatic quality during the construction of images, both in the professional field of photography and in the direction of photography for film and other video-graphic productions.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Measure light in image capture processes.
- Adjust the color in image editing processes.
- Build the chromatic and light texture of images in visual and audiovisual productions.
- Apply the techniques and processes of audiovisual production and dissemination in its various phases.
- Plan human resources.
- Manage the technologies applied to the media.
- Know the codes and modes of representation typical of audiovisual communication.
- Identify the social, cultural and historical relevance of the aesthetic proposals of the audiovisual industries.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

### 1. A look at history. Origin and early development of photography.

Remote precedents of photography. "Camera obscura" and its uses since antiquity. Its irruption in Renaissance Europe and its influence on painting.

The discovery of the light that draws in the conjunction of three procedures: the silver halides, the convergent lens and the dark chamber. The invention of Niépce: capture, revealed and fixed. Heliographs, daguerreotypes, negatives, calotypes and other derivatives: evolution of the procedures in the first years of photography.

The Maxwell procedure: color and RGB system.



## **2. The semiotic status of photography.**

Photography as an integrating part of the contemporary vision of the world. Photography as a sign among all the human communication resources.

Peirce and types of signs. The long debate about photography as a sign and its relationship to the concepts of reality, truth, evidence and lie. The unredeemed power of the photographic image.

## **3. The light and its properties.**

Electromagnetic energy. The visible spectrum and its composition. Perception of light and colours. The composition of white light. Natural and artificial sources. The colour temperature.

Interactions of light with matter: absorption, reflection, diffraction and refraction.

## **4. Cameras and objectives. The formation of the image.**

The camera obscura. Pinhole image formation. Converging and diverging lenses. Focus and focal length.

Formation of the focused image and its geometry. Focus range and depth of field. The conjugate distances.

Types of photographic lenses: characteristics and properties. The camera. Different types and formats.

## **5. Fixing the image. Chemical and digital photography.**

Silver halide photosensitive emulsions. Latent image, developer and fixer. Black and white photography and color chemistry.

The electronic sensor and their types. Structure and function. Black and white and color systems. The digital encoding of the image. Compression and file formats.

## **6. The lighting in photography and exposure parameters.**

The lighting concept: definition, units and basic formulas.

Balancing exposure with the photographic camera:

- the aperture: the scale of f numbers and the effects of the various openings beyond the control of light
- exposure time or shutter speed
- sensitivity and its measurement systems
- adjusting the picture to the colour temperature of a given source (white balance)

Lighting as an expressive resource.

**7. Treatment and digital image manipulation.**

We will also see correction procedures or lighting retouching (under or overexposure), colour management, selection of areas, applying filters, processing layers, cropping, geometric transformations and deformations, and finally making photomontages.

**8. Intentionality and photographic expression. Framing, composition and dynamics.**

Photography as a result of an intentional act. Framing as the creation of an object differentiated from the nature it comes from.

The language of composition. Third dimension and dynamism: the flat still image overcomes its shortcomings. Elements suggesting volume, depth and motion in photography.

Beyond the sense of sight: synesthesia.

**9. Genres and codes of photographic expression.**

Beyond similarity: the portrait as a form of expression: face, eyes, body, pose and context.

The composition in landscapes and architectural photography. The value of contrast, perspective, power lines, dynamic elements.

The effect of different types of lenses in image perception: depth of field, distortion, distance perception. Intentionality and subjectivity in the photographic vision.

Emblematic examples of photojournalism: the violence, suffering, dramatic expression of a situation in an image.

Exploitation of sensuality and visual appeal in artistic photography and advertising. Multiplicity of genres in scientific, geographic, institutional and family photography.

**WORKLOAD**

ACTIVITY	Hours	% To be attended
Laboratory practices	45,00	100
Theory classes	15,00	100
Attendance at events and external activities	5,00	0
Study and independent work	30,00	0
Readings supplementary material	25,00	0
Preparation of evaluation activities	15,00	0
Preparation of practical classes and problem	15,00	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150,00</b>	





## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The first four weeks will be given theoretical classes, in the theory classroom of the Faculty.

From the fifth week to the end of the semester, the teaching activity will take place in the Audiovisual Workshop of the University (TAU), in the classroom specifically prepared for photography (Study 3), where, in addition to the theoretical knowledge necessary for each activity, The practices will be carried out with the use of digital SLR cameras available in the same and their accessories, a large-format analog camera that is used to study image formation, a study equipped with electronic flashes and changeable backgrounds and 20 stations computer equipped with the necessary applications.

The students will carry out the practices under the teacher's guidance at all times.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation of the subject will consist of two components:- A theoretical exam at the end of the semester, which will account for 46% of the subject and- The evaluation of the practices carried out, which will account for 54%.

- In any case, in order to take the average, the minimum required in the theoretical exam will be 3 points

Problems with spelling, syntax and/or written expression will be scored negatively and may result in failure of the test.

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for the fair evaluation of the student's work. All work submitted in this course must be originally authored by every student.

No student shall engage in unauthorized collaboration or make use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software.

In case of plagiarism in a student's evaluation work, this may be evaluated with a numerical grade of zero, regardless of the disciplinary procedure that may be initiated and, if applicable, the appropriate sanction in accordance with current legislation.

## REFERENCES

### Basic

- DUBOIS, P. (1983) El acto fotográfico. Barcelona: Paidós, 2002.
- JAKOBSON, R. E., RAY, S. F, ATTRIDGE, G.G. & AXFORD, N.R. (2002) Manual de fotografía. Barcelona: Omega



- PLASENCIA, Z. (2009) Fotografía digital. Madrid: Anaya.
- SOUGEZ, M. L. (1998) Historia de la fotografía. Madrid: Cátedra

#### **Additional**

- ABREU, C. (1998) Los géneros periodísticos fotográficos. Barcelona: CIMS.
- ADAMS, A. (2000) La cámara. Madrid: Omnicón
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- SANTAELLA, L. & NÖTH, W.(2003) Imagen. Comunicación, semiótica y medios. Kassel: Reichenberger.
- SONTAG, S. (1973) Sobre la fotografía. Barcelona: Edhasa
- SOUSA, J. P. (2000) Historia crítica del fotoperiodismo occidental. Sevilla: C. S., 2003
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