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# Photography Book [Photography]

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Spring I 2018**

## **2017-2018 Learning Matters Mini-Grant Assignment Library Submission**

### **Class:**

**HUA 130 Beginning Photography**

### **Implementation Date:**

**Spring 2018**

HUA 130 Beginning Photography consists of majors and non-majors and is the foundation course in the Photography program curriculum. This Photography Book assignment was revised and refined through a Learning Matters Mini-grant. The guidance from the CTL mini-grant was extremely helpful in altering it to be more reflective of the Integrative Learning Core Competency and Digital Communication ability.

When we first started in the fall of 2017 we hoped to target assignments across seven classes in the photography program. We soon realized that we were taking on more than we could manage. Our goal was to reinforce student learning in our program and improve the integration of LaGuardia's Core Competencies and Communication Abilities into our courses. Through the meetings with the CTL mini-grant advisors we realized we would better serve the program and yield richer results if we scaled back our goals. We then decided to focus more intensely on two high stakes assignments, one in a beginner class (HUA 130) and the other in a more advanced class.

Rethinking and reworking these assignments has helped to enhance our skills planning and executing assignments. This process has also contributed greatly to our understanding of the competencies and abilities. The responses from the students were mostly positive. They had difficulty with the writing aspect of the Photo Book assignment so I will scaffold that component by adding a lower stakes reflection earlier in the semester, which should better prepare the students for writing component.

### **Assignment:**

In this assignment, students advance the **Integrative Learning Competency and Digital Communication Ability** by synthesizing and demonstrating what they have learned over the semester by designing and creating a photography book containing 20 images created in class. The photography book should also include a half page written introduction that explains the theme of the book.

### **Competency and Ability:**

This high stakes photography book assignment is the culmination of student's work and lower stakes assignments over the course of the semester. It aligns with the Integrative Learning Core Competency and Digital Communication Ability. The students demonstrate the ability to make connections across personal experiences, experiences in school, and ideas discussed in this photography class to create a visual expression of their experiences, thoughts, and ideas. The lower stakes assignments challenge them to get out of their "comfort zone" and we analyze the results through in class discussions. Pushing them out of their "comfort zone" results in improved confidence, which can be applied to many situations throughout their lives. When they are out photographing they are applying their intellectual skills, technical skills learned in class, and making connections between theories, practice, experience, as well as how to problem solve. Through creating this book, the students synthesize and advance what they have learned throughout the semester.

This assignment aligns with the digital ability in that students must prove successful operation across analog and digital photographic processes to a high level of proficiency. The success of this assignment requires students to demonstrate ability using computers and software appropriate for the photographic field.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students learn how to successfully communicate ideas through imagery and writing. Students gain understanding of making connections across ideas and experiences to synthesize and transfer learning.

**Grading Information:**

The photo book is 25% of the final grade. The students are given 2 weeks to complete this book assignment.

## **The Assignment:**

This assignment is the culmination of your work over the course of the semester. You will be creating a photography book from a print on demand service like Blurb or Adorama from images you created during this course. The instructions are as follows.

### **I. Photo Book Guidelines**

- The book must include 20 images created in class that have been properly scanned, retouched, edited, and resized.
- The book must be based on a theme, concept, or narrative story of your own creation.
- The book can be a story from your personal life or experience. For example, the experience of feeling excited but nervous to be living in a new city or starting college for the first time. What would that look like photographically?
- You do not have to use a traditional, linear time-line in telling your story through images.
- You will upload images and design the book using a print on demand service like Blurb books or Adorama.
- Include a written reflection introducing the book (information below).

### **II. Reflecting on Your Learning**

As you consider the theme of your photo book, and which images to include, think about what you've learned in this course, other courses you've taken, and your life experiences:

- Revisit the photo books of Robert Frank and Rinko Kawauchi. How did they create an atmosphere in their photo books? What were some of their techniques?
- What have you learned so far in your life, academic, and college co-curricular experiences?
- What are your curiosities, passions, interests, and goals?
- What patterns do you see in the images you've created in this course?
- How can you draw from your own experience and then persuasively convey that to a viewer using your images?
- How does the sequence of images in your book add to or take away from your story or theme?

### **III. Reflection**

You will need to write a half a page introduction to the book.

Address the following questions in your introduction:

- What is the theme, concept, or story of your photo book?
- Explain your intention, why did you choose this theme or story?
- Reflect on prior experiences, how did they connect to this project?
- Is there a recurring symbol or subject matter that adds to the rhythm and mood of your book?
- What have you learned in your life and experiences at LaGuardia so far that helped shape the images you chose to create and that you included in your book?