

COLOR 1

Fall 2004, Parsons School of Design
Wednesday 3:00-5:40
PUPH 1006C 587
Room 305, Building N

Leslie Grant
Office Hours: Wed 2-3, or by appointment
grantl@newschool.edu
646.823.5570

Description:

Part one of a year long sequence that begins with a concentration on fundamental formal color theory as it relates to photographic practice. Students will use color slide film to complete a series of assignments that are focused on the formal, technical, conceptual and psychological uses of color. This course will introduce students to digital color printing through rigorous practice while thoroughly examining the characteristics and properties of color as an element of content.

Course Outline:

Topics - color as subject, color dynamics and relationships, color through history, digital color.
Activities - lecture, discussion of technical and conceptual issues, and digital lab time.
Assignments - photography projects, readings, midterm exam

Course Objectives:

Things you should know when you complete this course: The technical aspects of color photography, the conceptual uses of color in photographic practice, and digital applications (capture, color management, printing)

Grading:

Evaluation and grading will be based on: Attendance, participation in class discussions, completion of assignments, and the midterm exam

Required Reading: (on reserve at Gimbel Library)

Exploring Color Photography, Third Edition, by Robert Hirsch (McGraw Hill, 1997)

Additional Information:

Color Photography: A Working Manual, by Henry Horenstein (Little, Brown and Co., 1995)

Other readings will be handed out in class (see below for specific titles)

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. Faculty members are expected to fail any student who is absent for a significant portion of class time – defined as three absences for classes that meet once a week.

For Parsons School of Design Academic and Attendance Policies, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Class Schedule

9/8 Introduction

Technical: basic camera mechanics, exposure, slide film

History & Theory: how we perceive color, origins of color theory

Assignment: Using Kodak Ektachrome EPP (36 exposures), shoot six different frames of blue, of red, of yellow, of orange, of green, and of purple. Fill the frame with color. Have film processed (E-6) and mounted. Read Ch. 1 in *Exploring Color Photography*.

9/15 Color Wheel

Concepts: hue, saturation and de-saturation, primary, secondary and tertiary colors, tints & shades

Technical: color cast, exposure latitude, color temperature

History: color through history I

Assignment: Shoot 1-2 rolls of slides, focusing on color relationships. Read Ch. 6 and 7 in *Exploring Color Photography*.

9/22 Color Dynamics

Concepts: hue, value, warm/cool, complementary, simultaneous

Technical: light sources - properties, mixing and balancing

History: color through history II

Assignment: Keep photographing. Read Ch 2, *Exploring Color Photography*.

9/29 Color Relationships

Concepts: monochrome, analogous, triadic and complementary color

Technical: filtration and color temperature

History: the development of color photographic materials

Assignment: Keep photographing. Read John Berger's "The Ambiguity of the Photograph", and Ch. 9, *Exploring Color Photography*.

10/6 Color as Content

Concepts: color's relationship to meaning, review

History: artists working with color, discussion of Berger reading

Assignment: Visit a photo/art exhibit that involves color as part of the content/meaning of the artwork. Write a one page review of the show to be handed in at the exam. Review for midterm exam.

10/13 Mid Term Exam

Assignment: Bring slides to scan on 10/20. Keep photographing.

10/20 Digital Color

Concepts: image capture - CCD mechanics, raster vs. vector, bit depth, DPI, color gamut, gamma, transmitted vs. reflected light, inkjet

Technical: PhotoShop basics, scanning basics

History: artists working with digital photography

Assignment: Scan 3-6 slides to work with in the next class. Read Ch. 13, "The Digital Image," in *Exploring Color Photography*.

***10/27 Scanning and Printing**

Concepts: analyzing and correcting color

Technical: color management, correction, scan quality and tonal range

Assignment: Scan slides to work with, make 3-5 Epson inkjet prints, write a one page (typed, double spaced, 12 point font) proposal for your final project to discuss and turn in

***11/3 Printing Continued**

look at work in progress, discuss project proposals

Concepts: theory of color management

Technical: hue and saturation, brightness and contrast, levels, curves

Assignment: Work on scanning and printing, bring prints to class, start on 3 page critical essay on a photographer /artist who uses color/digital practices

***11/10 Printing Continued**

look at work in progress, sign up for critiques

Assignment: Print 3-10 photographs to class that relate to your final project to show during critique

11/17 Critique I

Assignment: Work on final project

***12/1 Critique II**

Assignment: Work on final project, finish 3-page essay to turn in during review week

***12/8 Review Week**

Assignment: Turn in essay on Wednesday (to my mailbox by 6pm)

12/15 Final Critique I

12/22 Final Critique II