



Central University of Himachal Pradesh

(Established under Central Universities Act 2009)

DHARAMSHALA, KANGRA, HP – 176215,

www.cuhimachal.ac.in; Phone: 01892 237285-2237289, 229330; Fax: 01892 237286



Department of New Media

Course Objective and course content

Course Code: NMC 547

Course Name: Basics of Photography

Faculty: Deepak Kumar Vaishnav

Credits Equivalent: 2 Credits (One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of lectures/classroom activity contact hours; 5 hours of practical / field work / Tutorial / teacher-led activity and 15 hours of other workloads such as independent individual/ group work; obligatory/ optional work placement; literature survey/ library work; data collection/fieldwork; writing of papers/ projects/dissertation/thesis; seminars, etc.)

Course Description: The course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts of contemporary photographic practices and image-making techniques. The course seeks to strengthen their technical, creative and critical ability to examine images from conceptualization. The course stresses the application of theory, making it the foundation to undergo hands-on training. It seeks to foster an ideal balance of technical as well as theoretical knowledge in photography.

Course Objectives:

- Familiarizing students with the concept of contemporary photographic practices and image-making techniques.
- To orient students with the concepts behind the creation of an image.
- To train students on how to use different equipment used in photography.
- Preparing students to use photography as a tool of creative expression.

Course Outcome:

CO1: Students will be able to understand the theoretical concept behind photography.

CO2: Students will receive practical knowledge on how to use the equipment.

CO3: Students will be introduced to the works of world-renowned photographers and taught how to read photographs.

CO4: Students will work on a photography product in the form of a photo essay, photo book or project.

Attendance Requirement:

Students are expected to attend all lectures in order to be able to fully benefit from the course. A minimum of 75% attendance is a must failing which a student may not be permitted to appear in examination.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Mid-Term Examination: 20%
 2. End-Term Examination: 60%
 3. Continuous Internal Assessment: 20%
- Class Participation: 5%
 - Group Discussion: 5%
 - Assignments 10%



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Course Contents

Unit 1: History and Evolution of Photography

- History and Evolution of Photography from Analog to digital photography
- Various photography fields
- Social and Cultural Impact of Photography
- Elements of Composition and Visual Analysis – Rule of Thirds, etc.

Unit 2: Basic overview of the photographic process

- Various parts and settings of a camera.
- Role of Light and Exposure in Photography
- Photography equipment and handling – types of cameras, lenses, storage, flashes, tripods, unipods, lights, etc.

Unit 3: Image Manipulation through Camera Controls

- Exposure triangle: understanding how to use ISO, shutter speed and aperture to create a quality photograph
- Mobile photography and its principles

Unit 4: Lighting

- Natural light and how to use it in photography
- Artificial light and how to use it in photography
- Three-point lighting and studio photography

Unit 5: Post-production in photography

- Fundamentals of photo editing
- Capture and storage in Digital format
- Sensor, its types; CCD, CMOS
- File formats; JPEG, RAW, TIFF
- Manipulation of Images through software

In-Class Presentation: Photo Feature/Photo Story in digital form

Final Product: Photo story Submission in print or digital format along with a Viva Voce based on the semester course work and exercises.



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List of study material:

- Christopher Pinney. *The Coming of Photography in India*. Oxford University Press, 2008
- Michael Langford, Anna Fox, Richard Sawndon Smith, (2010), *Langford's Basic Photography*, Focal Press.
- Michael Langford, Efthimia Billisi, (2010), *Langford's Advanced Photography*, Focal Press. Barbara Upton, John Upton, (1989), *Photography*. Harper Collins.
- Steve Edwards, (2006), *Photography: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.
- Christopher Pinney, (1997), *Camera Indica: The Social Life of Indian Photographs*, The University of Chicago Press.
- James Elkins, (2007), *Photography Theory*, Routledge.
- Susan Sontag. *On Photography*. London: Penguin, 2008.
- *Visual Methods in the Field - Photography for the Social Sciences* By Terence Heng.

Course Articulation Matrix of NMC-547 - Basics of Photography

Course Outcome	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	Total	PSO1	PSO2	PSO3
CO1		✓	✓			2	✓	✓	✓
CO2	✓	✓				2	✓	✓	
CO3	✓	✓	✓		✓	4		✓	✓
CO4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5		✓	✓