UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Linguaggi della Fotografia

2526-2-E2004P023

Learning area

3: Techniques, tools, and technologies of communication.

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course, students will be familiar with:

- The main stages in the history of photography, from its origins to the present day.
- Photographic genres and their visual, social, and cultural codes.
- The relationship between photography, reality, and representation.
- The symbolic, political, social, and cultural meanings of photography.
- The implications of photography use across various professional and media contexts.
- The transformations related to digital photography, connected photography, and post-photography.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Students will be able to:

- Critically analyze photographic images, whether standalone or in series.
- Contextualize photographic production within its intended fields (editorial, artistic, advertising, social, etc.).
- Apply theoretical tools to visual reading and image decoding.
- Create photographic content aligned with a given theme or brief.
- Reflect critically on the use of images in contemporary communication.

Making judgments

Autonomous critical thinking will be fostered through:

- Guided analysis and discussion of images, photographic projects, and authors.
- Practical and reflective exercises on the photographic medium.
- Independent development of a photographic project based on a predefined theme.
- Group evaluation and critical discussion of the work produced, encouraging dialogue and awareness.

Communication skills

Communication skills will be developed through:

- Oral and visual presentations of photographic projects.
- Classroom discussions of analyzed materials and project decisions.
- The use of appropriate visual-technical vocabulary in image descriptions.
- The writing of short critical and descriptive texts related to the produced images.

Learning skills

Students will develop:

- The ability to observe and critically interpret visual content beyond the academic context.
- An aptitude for using visual and theoretical research tools for further study.
- A disposition to integrate visual and conceptual competencies in interdisciplinary and professional environments.

Contents

Through an overview of the history and contemporary practice of photography, image analysis, and practical exercises, the workshop aims to provide students with basic critical tools for understanding photographic languages. Specifically, in order to equip students with the ability to analyze various visual products that employ photographic images, the workshop focuses on providing a set of theoretical, practical, and historical knowledge about the use of photography. It explores the relationship between photography and information, develops critical image analysis skills, and investigates the use of photography in various professional fields.

Detailed program

- Overview of the history of photography.
- Social aspects of photographic genres.
- Use of photography as an expressive medium.
- Political and cultural meanings of photography.
- Photography as a narrative tool of society.
- Use of photography in advertising.
- Reflections on digital photography, connected photography, and post-photography.
- Analysis of photographic images and their production and distribution contexts through critical readings of individual images, campaigns, projects, subjects, and authors.
- Practical experimentation with photography in relation to one or more predetermined themes to apply the skills acquired.

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching methods

6 lessons of 4 hours in person. Interactive-Erogative teaching.

Lectures, exercise-based activities, laboratory activities, teacher-supervised activities, independent activities. Presentation and analysis of thematic topics based on the examination of visual materials.

Assessment methods

Assessment objectives

The ability to approach an image critically, apply image analysis tools, and produce a photograph based on the client's specific requests.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation is based on practical exercises designed in line with the learning objectives and content, to be carried out during the workshop, as well as a final project discussed collectively. Assessment focuses on the understanding of the content and the application of the guidelines presented during the workshop.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The bibliography will be provide during the lectures.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS