COURSE OUTLINE

DES204 Photographic Narratives

School: School of Business and Creative Industries

2026 | Trimester 1

UniSC Sunshine Coast	BLENDED LEARNING	Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.
Online	ONLINE	You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

Please go to unisc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This course will build on your technical skills to further your photographic literacies and engagement with contemporary practices and ideas, Focusing on both theoretical and practical approaches to photography, you will explore critical theories which underpin the ways in which we create and engage with photographs and draw these ideas into the production of your own work. The emphasis will be on developing narrative throughout your work whilst working ethically, professionally, and with social conscience as you consider ideas around collaboration, representation and post-truth dialogues.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled face to face workshops.	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Seminar – Scheduled face to face seminars.	2hrs	Week 5	2 times
ONLINE			
Learning materials – Interactive online learning activities.	1hr	Week 1	12 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Scheduled online workshops (Recorded).	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Seminar – Scheduled online seminars (Recorded).	2hrs	Week 5	2 times

1.3. Course Topics

Visual literacy; reading images; documentary genres; ethics; portraiture; photo essay; narrative photography; studio lighting; contemporary photographic practices

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...		GRADUATE QUALITIES Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1	Understand the ethical and professional implications of photography and its relationship to image making, including the ways in which photographs can be used to help address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	Knowledgeable Ethical
2	Analyse the role of images within the broader framework of contemporary society and apply this to your photographic practice.	Knowledgeable Ethical
3	Develop the capacity to see and create good image making opportunities.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered
4	Apply critical theoretical principals to comprehend varying functions of creating and disseminating photographs including understanding diverse technical situation and post-production processes and software.	Knowledgeable
5	Evaluate, explain and communicate clearly the processes, problems and successes of your photography.	Knowledgeable Empowered

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

Not applicable

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Formative reviews will be ongoing each week as part of the weekly sharing and critique sessions. This will start in week three.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	30%	Provide 6 digital images and written reflective journal.	Week 5	Online Submission
All	2	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece	Individual	35%	10 photographs, artist statement and written reflective process journal	Week 9	Online Submission
All	3	Artefact - Creative, and Oral	Individual	35%	6 digital images and written reflective journal	Week 12	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: The Transformative Power of Photography and Text

GOAL:	Language is a powerful tool and its use in combination with visual imagery in art has a long history. This assignment will explore different ways in which adding text can support your images and allow you to use textual elements to draw in new ideas, alternative perspectives or quite simply reiterate the message your image is communicating.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Using a diverse range of approaches, create 6 images which explore the use of text (within and/or outside the image) to create a strong individual narrative. Create a reflective journal to accompany the images which will show documentation of the creative, conceptual and technical approaches. Please see Canvas for more information.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Understand the ethical and professional implications of photography and its relationship to image making.	1
2	Understand how to develop the capacity to see and capture good image making opportunities.	3
3	Apply critical photographic principals to comprehend varying functions of capture and output including understanding diverse technical situation and post-production processes and software.	4
4	Evaluate, explain and communicate clearly the processes, problems and successes of your photography.	5
5	Create informed responses to the challenge of incorporating textual elements in your work, recognising their context in the broader framework of society and photographic practices.	1 2 3

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Applying technologies

All - Assessment Task 2: Photo narratives- telling the story

GOAL:	To use photo documentary techniques to document an authentic industry, social, or cultural event to communicate a narrative story.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Written Piece
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	Create a narrative of an authentic industry/social/cultural experience, or document a community organisation, a plight or affirmative action within a local community, or an event occurrence of your choosing. You must produce a work which is documentary, not conceptual or fictionalised. Submit ten images along with a reflective journal. Please see Canvas for more information.

CRITERIA:

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Understand the ethical and professional implications of photography and its relationship to image making.	1
2	Understand how to develop the capacity to see and capture good image making opportunities.	3
3	Apply critical photographic principals to comprehend varying functions of capture and output including understanding diverse technical situation and post-production processes and software.	4
4	Evaluate, explain and communicate clearly the processes, problems and successes of your photography.	5
5	Understand the role of images within the broader framework of contemporary society and apply this to your photographic practice.	2
6	Be able to communicate to others, organise, offer direction, and create the desired aesthetic outcome for photography.	5

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Applying technologies

All - Assessment Task 3: Beyond Face Value - Creative Portraiture

GOAL:	Examine photographic representation through portraiture by comparing and contrasting different ways of representing the same person. Compare the difference between taking a portrait with natural light to showcase an aspect of your model's character/personality and then showcase a different part of their character/personality using artificial light settings.
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Creative, and Oral
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:	
FORMAT:	This assessment allows you to explore different ways of representing your subject. You will use both studio and natural lighting to achieve 6 different portraits (3 natural, 3 studio) and create a scholarly and reflective journal which articulates your process. You will use the same model for your studio and natural lighting portraits however the aim is to show radically different sides of their characters. You will accompany this with a video reflection. Please see Canvas for more details.
CRITERIA:	

No.		Learning Outcome assessed
1	Understand the ethical and professional implications of photography and its relationship to image making.	1
2	Apply critical photographic principals to comprehend varying functions of capture and output including understanding diverse technical situation and post-production processes and software.	4
3	Evaluate, explain and communicate clearly the processes, problems and successes of your photography.	5
4	Understand the role of images within the broader framework of contemporary society and apply this to your photographic practice.	2
5	Be able to communicate to others, organise, offer direction, and create the desired aesthetic outcome for photography.	3 5

GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Applying technologies

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

> There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Student must have access to DSLR/mirrorless camera and lenses (hire available for on campus students).
This course requires some commercial software or hardware which is provided at UniSC campuses for student use. If you elect to do this course online, you may either; attend a campus at which it is available, discuss alternative open source solutions with your course coordinator that would enable you to demonstrate the learning outcomes, or if you prefer you may acquire this software and / or hardware at your own expense.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the online induction training for students, and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:
(a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
(b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:
(a) One day: deduct 5%;
(b) Two days: deduct 10%;
(c) Three days: deduct 20%;
(d) Four days: deduct 40%;
(e) Five days: deduct 60%;
(f) Six days: deduct 80%;
(g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:
Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central