

Final Project Guidelines

Proposals Due 12:00 PM (noon) on Monday, November 21, 2011
Final Project Due 12:00 PM (noon) on Monday, December 19, 2011
Exhibition from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM on Monday, December 19, 2011

Guidelines

- Make a final project!

Okay, so there are a few more requirements than that. This final project is meant to be a culmination of all of your learned or honed photographic skills. At the conclusion of the semester is the E-7 Exhibition that will provide an opportunity for you to show off your hard work. There are intentionally few requirements for the final project: one of the goals of this course is to enable your creativity to flow freely by having a thorough understanding of, and therefore be able to get around, the technical limitations of photography. For this reason, the final project is designed to allow your creativity to let loose and the requirements are very close to simply "make a final project". But just so we're clear, we'll lay down some ground rules.

Ground Rules

- Submit one or more digital images that are each based on one or more digital photographs.
- At least half of the photographs that you use in your images must be new, unique, and taken for the purposes of this project.
- The submitted image(s) must be in JPEG format. There are no limits on aspect ratio or resolution, though you should choose these values within reason! You may take your photos in any format (including RAW), but you must process them and submit only JPEG files.
- Your final project must use lessons from this course, though you are not required to limit yourself exclusively to them and may explore additional techniques.
- Along with your image(s) you will submit a short paper. The paper should be a Word document, a PDF, or a text file (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt, or .rtf are all acceptable), and should not be longer than 2 pages. Be sure to cover:
 - How you applied lessons from this course towards your final project.
 - Describe how you created your image(s). Be sure to discuss everything from the camera's exposure settings, how the scene was set up, to how you processed the images with software.

Proposal

By noon on Monday, November 21, you will submit a proposal for your final project. It is a required aspect of the final project: your proposal must be approved or your final project will not be accepted. Before the due date, type your proposal into a Word document (.doc, .docx), PDF document (.pdf), or plaintext file (.txt, .rtf), and place it file in your "**Final Project**" folder in the Dropbox directory we shared with you from project 1. This file should be called, for example, **Proposal.doc**, **Proposal.pdf**, or **Proposal.txt**.

Your proposal must cover these categories:

- **Theme:** Briefly describe the theme of your final project. Put another way, state in a couple of sentences what you hope to accomplish, capture, demonstrate, or tell with your images. Realize that we're looking for more than just a portfolio of images, so be creative!
- **Execution:** In no more than one paragraph, answer these questions: How do you plan to accomplish your theme? What type of photos will you need to take?
- **Format:** What is the intended format of your final project? (e.g., photo book, web, print, etc.)
- **Number of images:** Estimate the number of images you would need to accomplish your theme. An approximate number is fine.

Your proposal will either be approved or will require modifications before continuing. Once you have submitted a proposal that has been approved, you may begin work on your project! You may also make changes to your approved proposal at any time but you must first receive approval of such from the staff.

Grading

Your final project grade will be broken down as follows:

Proposal: 5 points. Submit a proposal on time and these are almost free points!

Paper: 15 points. Be sure to discuss all required aspects within the length limitation.

Image(s): 80 points. They must be demonstrative of effort. That is to say, if you are going to submit only one image, it must be an image that clearly required just as much effort as a final project with multiple images.

Extensions on the final project due date will not be granted except in cases of emergency. Technical difficulties do not constitute emergencies. Final projects (including the Proposal) submitted after the due time will be penalized as follows: submissions up to 12 hours late will be penalized 25% and submissions over 12 hours late will be penalized 100%. Lateness will be determined down to the minute based on submissions' timestamps on the Dropbox submission.

Submission

All files towards the completion of this final project must be submitted before their respective due dates to the "**Final Project**" folder in the Dropbox directory we shared with you from project 1.

E-7 Exhibition

The E-7 Exhibition on Monday, December 19 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. It will be held in the mezzanine area of Crema Cafe, on 27 Brattle St in Harvard Square, Cambridge MA.

You encouraged to bring a physical representation of your final project if its format lends itself well to this manner of display. Alternatively, you may bring a laptop and display your work electronically that way. Your goal should be to enable people to enjoy your work in the format you had envisioned.

Friends and family are welcome. The evening will be a casual celebration of your success in the course, an opportunity to chat with classmates, and eat cake!