



Beirut
Printmaking
Studio

Course Syllabus

Booklab

The photobook is a unique medium where photography, design, materiality, and sequencing come together to create a complete visual narrative. This hands-on course introduces participants to the full process of conceiving, designing, printing, and binding a photobook from start to finish. Through practical experimentation and exposure to a wide range of art and photobook references, participants will develop both technical and conceptual approaches to bookmaking while producing their own customized publication.

This 10-session / 28-hour course guides participants through the complete workflow of creating a book. Beginning with an exploration of contemporary art, design and photo books, participants will analyze different approaches to sequencing, layout, typography, materials, and binding.

Using Adobe InDesign and Illustrator, participants will learn how to prepare professional print-ready files and understand the technical requirements of digital offset printing. Each participant will print and assemble their own photobook while experimenting with customization techniques such as embossing, hot foil printing, mixed paper stocks, and alternative binding methods.

The course combines conceptual development with practical production skills, encouraging experimentation with the physical qualities of the book as an artistic object.

Objectives

This course aims to provide participants with the conceptual, technical, and practical skills necessary to design, print, and bind their own photobooks. Through a combination of research, digital design, print production, and hands-on bookmaking techniques, participants will explore the photobook as both a storytelling medium and a physical object. By the end of the course, each participant will have produced a customized photobook (10 copies) that reflects their individual visual and material approach.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

1. **Understand** the structure and visual language of photobooks.
2. **Analyze** and reference contemporary and historical photobook practices.
3. **Develop** a coherent visual narrative through image sequencing and layout.
4. **Explore** Adobe InDesign and Illustrator to design and prepare print-ready files.
5. **Understand** the fundamentals of digital offset printing and production workflows.
6. **Experiment** with paper selection, typography, and material combinations.
7. **Apply** finishing techniques such as embossing and hot foil printing.
8. **Explore** and execute different bookbinding techniques.
9. **Produce** and bind a fully realized customized book.
10. **Develop** greater sensitivity to the relationship between image, design, and object-making.

Pre-requisite**Minimal notions in Adobe family specifically InDesign, Illustrator & Photoshop.****Projects**

Notes	Class Content	Session
Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 3	Part I Research & Design phase.	1 & 2
Learning Outcomes 4, 5 & 6	Part II Printing and collating.	3 to 8
Learning Outcomes 7, 8, 9 & 10	Part III Finishing & binding.	9 & 10

Content

Notes	Class Content	Session
Research & design.	Lecture: Introduction to course, revising and choosing materials, techniques and binding options.	1
	Research: Explore the library of photobooks and explore the possibility of working with collage and pastiche. + guest speaker	2
Production & printing.	Compile images: Participants gather high res digital captures from their negatives and artworks in preparation of layouting.	3
	Design Software- Participants will have an intro into how to format a file on InDesign and Illustrator for printing as well as preparing files on Photoshop. + guest speaker	4
	Layouting: Layout and copy edit.	5 & 6
	Printing Session: Printing of textblock and cover.	7 & 8
Finishing & binding.	Binding: Participants bind their books according to the technique chosen.	9 & 10