

Beginning Black & White Photography

Rebekah Just, 308.5050

Required reading: **Photography** (Ninth Edition), by London, Stone and Upton

Beginning photography is a three credit introductory course in the study of photography with emphasis placed on the development of photographic vision. This course will: (1) provide you with the basic technical skills needed to use a manual 35mm camera, develop black and white film, and print black and white photographs, and (2) explore the aesthetic potential of photography as an expressive art form.

Class Structure

The class will meet for lectures, critiques, discussions, and supervised darkroom time. Critiques will take place as scheduled on course calendar. You are expected to have work completed in time for the critique (late work will affect your grade). This forum serves to develop critical thinking and verbalization of both formal and conceptual concerns. There will be quizzes on the reading and technical information covered in class.

Assignments

You will be required to shoot three to four rolls of film (36 exposures each) for each of the four critiques. You must present a minimum of six prints per critique. There will be additional assignments, which will include readings. The assignments given are designed to expose you to the many different avenues of photography, challenge your curiosity and imagination, and to promote self discovery and learning. Each assignment is prefaced with a class discussion on the potential and possibilities open for exploration within the assignment. You are invited to define each assignment in your own terms, and are encouraged to approach it from any direction.

Grading

Your final grade is an average of the following:

80% critiques (20% each)

10% quizzes

10% library assignments combined

A = work of exceptional quality

B = strong work

C = good work

D = poor work

F = work incomplete or of exceptionally poor quality

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. If more than three classes are missed or if partial attendance occurs (late arrivals or early departures) your final grade will be lowered a letter grade per offence. It is absolutely essential to attend class and be punctual, as to not miss important announcements and demonstrations. If you are late for a critique or do not have the completed assignment, you will be asked to not participate, and your grade will be lowered accordingly.

Darkroom Labs

These facilities are for you to use and enjoy. While using these facilities you will come in contact with expensive/delicate equipment and photographic chemicals. Therefore there are certain guidelines that must be adhered to. Do not consume food or beverages in labs. No lights in the darkroom (cell phones, iPods, etc.) Absolutely no smoking. Avoid any contact of skin to chemistry and breathing of direct chemical fumes. Wash hands with soap after contact and make sure exhaust ventilation system is turned on. When you are finished working, make sure that you clean up everything to continue a safe, clean lab environment. If you observe someone abusing the labs, either through poor or hazardous work habits, bring it to their attention and notify me. This is your darkroom. Protect it and keep it clean.

Assignments

Minimum six 8"x10" fiber based prints, and contact sheets will be due at each critique.

Observation of the world as it exists

Assignment 1 - Self portraits/Portraits

- a. Look at your world close at hand. What are you interested in? What do you care about?
- b. Address issues including personal mythology, personal history, personal identity, social identity, ethnic and gender issues.
- c. Reveal something about the subject beyond what they look like.

Assignment 2 - Street/Snapshot/Documentary Photography

- a. Look at the world outside of yourself beyond the intimacy of family and home.
- b. Public vs. private spaces, voyeurism, camera gives permission to look.
- c. Again, reveal something beyond what the subject looks like.

Construction and manipulation of images

Assignment 3 - Fabrication/Dream imagery/Telling lies

- a. Manipulation of image through shooting and darkroom techniques (blur, double negatives, etc.).
- b. Constructing images: still lifes, installations, and set-ups.
- c. Use of appropriated images: TV, video, advertisements.

Assignment 4 - The implied narrative

- a. Images in series diptyches, triptychs (sequential or disjointed).
- b. Incorporating images with text.
- c. Telling of stories, truth or fiction.
- d. What makes you uncomfortable?

Supplies

1. 35mm manual camera with lens (have batteries checked).
[\$149.95-\$249.95].
2. Beginning B&W Photo pack at Casey's Cameras
(Includes Ilford 8"x10" 100 sheets Multigrade Fiber Based Glossy paper *Do not open!*,
Print file 35mm negative sleeves 25 pack, Ilford 3.5"x3.5" multigrade printing filters,
Ilford orange antistatic cloth, 8x Lupe, film retriever, rocket air blower
[\$160.00]
3. Tri-X, Plus X, T Max, Ilford HP5, Ilford FP4, Delta, 20 rolls of 36 exposures - *100 - 125
ISO for shooting outside (daylight), 400 for inside light, 800 - 3200 for low light*
[\$4-\$6 per roll. You don't need to buy all 20 rolls at once.]
4. Masking tape
5. Scissors
6. Towel
7. Apron
8. Lock for locker
9. Notebook for taking notes and handouts
10. Light meter (if not a feature of your camera)

Specialty items may be purchased at Casey's Cameras (736.0890).
Do not purchase black & white film from Wal-Mart, Walgreens, etc...

Course Calendar

Monday Aug 24	Intro, photographic possibilities HW: Read chapters 2 (camera) & 3(lens), get supplies, bring camera and film to next class
Wednesday Aug 26	Review chapters 2 & 3, how to use camera, divide into A & B groups HW: Read chapter 5 (developing the negative), shoot 1 roll of film
Monday Aug 31	Group A - Review chapter 5, developing film demonstration, presentation on self portraits Group B - No class HW: Read chapter 6 (printing the positive), go to library, look at 2 photo books on reserve and write 1 page about work (description of work, compare to work you've seen, your opinion of the work or artist, how it might influence your work)
Wednesday Sept 2	Group A - No class Group B - Review chapter 5, developing film demonstration, presentation on self portraits HW: Read chapter 6 (printing the positive), go to library, look at 2 photo books on reserve and write 1 page about work (description of work, compare to work you've seen, your opinion of the work or artist, how it might influence your work)
Monday Sept 7	Labor Day Recess - No class
Wednesday Sept 9	Group A - Review chapter 6, printing demonstration, papers due Group B - No class HW: Shoot 1 roll of self portraits and develop before next class
Monday Sept 14	Group A - No class Group B - Review chapter 6, printing demonstration, papers due HW: Shoot 1 roll of self portraits and develop before next class
Wednesday Sept 16	Lab, show contact sheet of first roll of self portraits HW: Read chapters 1 (getting started), 4 (exposure & film), bring wire hanger and cardboard to class
Monday Sept 21	Review chapters 1, & 4, printing techniques, make burning & dodging tools HW: Shoot 2 rolls of self portraits and develop before next class
Wednesday Sept 23	Lab, show contact sheets of second & third rolls of self portraits HW: Print
Monday Sept 28	Assignment 2 presentation, Gary Winogrand, Nan Goldin videos, presentation on my work (don't miss), lab HW: Read chapters 15 (view camera), 16 (the zone system), & 17 (seeing photographs), get 2 reserve photo magazines from library and write 1 page about featured work
Wednesday Sept 30	Review chapters 15, 16, & 17, papers due, lab HW: Print
Monday Oct 5	Critique of Assignment 1 (3 contact sheets & 6 prints) HW: Shoot 1 roll of film for Assignment 2 & develop before next class
Wednesday Oct 7	Review for Quiz #1, show contact sheet HW: Study for quiz

Monday Oct 12	presentation for Assignment 3, Quiz #1 HW: Shoot 2 rolls of film and develop before next class
Wednesday Oct 14	Lab, show contact sheets HW: Print
Monday Oct 19	Critique for Assignment 2 (3 contact sheets & 6 prints) HW: Shoot at least 1 roll of film and develop before next class, bring other contact sheets, negatives & materials for manipulation to next class
Wednesday Oct 21	Lab, show contact sheets HW: Read chapters 14 (special techniques) & 18 (history of photography)
Monday Oct 26	Presentation for Assignment 4, Review Quiz #1, review chapters 14 & 18, lab HW: Shoot additional rolls of film and print
Wednesday Oct 28	Lab, show progress HW: Print
Monday Nov 2	Critique for Assignment 3, (6 prints, at least 1 contact sheet required), HW: Shoot 1 roll of film and develop before next class
Wednesday Nov 4	Lab, show contact sheet HW: Watch photography video at library and write 1 page paper (description of work, compare to work you've seen, your opinion of the work or artist, how it might influence your work)
Monday Nov 9	Lab, paper due HW: Shoot 2 rolls of film and develop before next class
Wednesday Nov 11	Veteran's Day Recess - No class
Monday Nov 16	Lab, show contact sheets HW: Print
Wednesday Nov 18	Critique for Assignment 4 (3 contact sheets & 6 prints) HW: bring all prints and contact sheets to next class
Monday Nov 23	Lab, show contact sheets and prints of images for final HW: Print final prints
Wednesday Nov 25	Thanksgiving Recess - No class
Monday Nov 30	Lab HW: Print final prints
Wednesday Dec 2	Lab, review for Quiz #2, bring any questions you have about quiz & final prints HW: Print final prints
Monday Dec 7	Quiz #2, return all work
Wednesday Dec 9	FINAL EXAM 8:30AM Final presentation: 15 finished prints, all contact sheets (minimum 10).