

BASIC CRITIQUE SEQUENCE

CRITIQUE 1 - INITIAL WORK

- take the first steps toward learning to make good prints
- take notice of the unexpected
- consider proximity, attitude, and luminosity
- 6 prints minimum plus 2 self portraits
- Crit 1 is usually in the second week after the printing demo

CRITIQUE 2 - DEVELOPMENTAL WORK

- continue to experiment with what looks interesting to you
- try to repeat your successes
- use influences from other work you see in the lab
- 8 prints minimum plus 2 self portraits
- Crit 2 is usually two weeks after the beginning of Crit 1

CRITIQUE 3 - SEMI-FINAL WORK

- create groups of photographs that support each other
- describe your inspirations for yourself and articulate them during the crit
- establish strategies that support the content of your images
- 10 prints minimum plus 2 self portraits
- Crit 3 is usually two or three weeks after the beginning of Crit 2

CRITIQUE 4 - RESOLUTION WORK

- present at least 3 groups of photos representing different strategies
- have at least 3- 11x14" or 2- 16x20" matted prints as part of your presentation
- be able to verbalize the visual, emotional, and conceptual attributes of each group of photos
- 12 prints minimum plus 2 self portraits
- Crit 4 is usually three weeks after the beginning of Crit 3

FINAL REVIEWS - REVIEW OF WORK

- present final versions of your photographs
- organized images so into groups that support each other
- be prepared to make a statement about the growth of your work this semester
- present a minimum of 24 prints
 - by this point you should have shown 36 prints plus 8 self portraits
 - edit these down to the ones that work together best
 - find the strongest prints and make more like them to add coherence and strengthen your portfolio
- have at least 8 images matted
- include at least 8 new photographs
 - make at least three copies of your strongest photographs
 - remember that several matted prints will be held for exhibition & slides
- Final Reviews are usually four weeks after Crit 4

Check the 'Basic Schedule' document for the exact dates this semester.

CRITIQUE DECORUM

Critiques are taken seriously here. A certain amount of respect is requested. There are some modes of behavior that are recommended and others that are unacceptable. Your body language is a reasonable indication of your attitude. It is in your best interest to send the right messages to your fellow students.

Arrive on time _____ People who are showing work are expected to arrive 10 - 12 minutes before class time to hang their work. You are allowed to hang 5 minutes into class time only! Anything more than this takes away from discussion time. Everyone who is not showing should spend hang time examining the prints on the wall, picking their favorites, and formulating statements about them.

Say something _____ The people showing will all pick their favorite print (other than one of their own) and comment on it, trying to choose a print by someone who has not been picked. Then everyone else will pick an unselected print to speak about. Finally, we will address everyone on an individual basis. Your comments are needed by each student. If you cannot find anything to say about someone else's prints, how can you expect them to say anything about yours?

Pay attention _____ Direct your attention toward the prints that are currently being discussed. Looking or discussing other student's prints dilutes the focus of the crit. Do not, for any reason, engage in any other activities, such as reading magazines, even if they were brought in for the class to be looked at. There is a proper time for everything.

Sit up straight _____ Slouching lazily is an indication of disrespect – toward the crit, toward your class-mates, toward your instructor. Don't put your feet up on other chairs or on the tables. This is not a convent, but it is not a bar. Body language is another way to communicate how much you care.

Keep conversations directed _____ Nothing is more distracting than ongoing chit-chat between two or three persons on the side. Occasional comments are fine, but anything of merit should be directed toward the entire class.

Eat elsewhere _____ Photographs and mayonnaise do not mix well. It is also difficult to hold a conversation over the sound of crunching potato chips. For these reasons, please do not bring food into the crit room. Arrange your time so you will not have to starve through class.

Note: There are times when the preceding class runs over. The instructors teach on a very tight schedule. Sometimes they will be forced to consume food at the beginning of class rather than going out to eat and arriving late.

Clean up _____ After the crit is over, look around the room and discard any trash that you see lying around. Make sure you take all the push pins out of the wall as well.

Go to the bathroom _____ before class starts. Walking out of the classroom in the middle of a conversation is rude and disrupting. If you cannot hold liquids, do not bring a beverage.

Clear early departures _____ with the instructor before class. If you can not stay, you should have a good reason. A midterm exam tomorrow is not a good reason to abandon you classmates when they need your feedback.

Be here _____ Do not ever cut a crit, or a class, or a slide lecture to work in the Lab.

Reciprocate _____ The bottom line is to treat your classmates with the respect and attention that you would like to receive. How can you expect someone to give you what you will not give them. It's the golden rule, remember?