

## ART PHOTOGRAPHY / DARKROOM – Syllabus

Tyler School of Art/ Department of Art & Art Education/ ART 2801

Class Meetings: Tuesdays 4:40 - 6:50 PM in Classroom: Anderson Hall AC28;

Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:30 PM in SCAT Photo Lab: Annenberg Hall Room 17;

Critiques are held in the Critique Room: Anderson Hall 108.

The basic goal of this class is to see the world in a new way. The next is to record how you interact with the world using this new vision. Photography is the medium through which we will achieve these goals.

There are two sides to making photographs -- the technical and the aesthetic, the how and the why you do what you do. Aesthetics are very important. Technique is very important. One cannot make good images without having a statement to be made and without having the technical proficiency to present that statement clearly.

Through the use of lecture/ demonstration, independent lab work, and group critiques, the student is expected to master the basic photographic skills quickly and then concentrate on the use of photography as a fine art medium.

### LECTURE/ DEMONSTRATION

The basic technical information will be discussed with the class during the first several weeks.

All the information is covered in the recommended text. The main topics covered are:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Camera technique -     | the body, the shutter (shutter speeds),<br>the lens (aperture & depth of field) |
| Exposure -             | light meters, how films respond to light  |
| Film development -     | the procedure, the chemistry, pushing and pulling                               |
| Enlargement printing - | contact sheets, test strips, printing, burning & dodging                        |
| Presentation -         | overmatting, spotting   |

Additional lectures, slide talks, and discussions will be presented in classes throughout the term. Student participation is very important. Attendance at all class meetings is imperative as the material is too extensive to be repeated. Sessions are split between discussions and printing, so always bring materials and be prepared to work.

### INDEPENDENT LAB WORK

A portion of the semester will be spent in the SCAT Darkroom. It is expected, however, that most printing, developing and finishing of photographs will happen outside of class time during Open Lab hours. Two to four rolls of film shot per week is the minimum to produce enough work to pass this course.

### CRITIQUES

Assignments will be given and the student's photographs will be discussed during group critiques approximately every other week in terms of their subject/idea, technical execution, and solution of the problem. Do not make prints you think the teacher will like, make the prints you want to make. Concern yourself with producing good photographs rather than good grades.

### GRADING

If you attend all class meetings, talk at least once a week, and show the minimum number of prints required at each critique, then you will receive a grade of C. That is average. If you want a better than average grade then you need to do better than average and more than average work. This means participating in discussions, demonstrating an ongoing effort to produce quality work, and being on time for all class meeting. A portfolio of high quality photographs is required for final reviews.