

## ART PHOTOGRAPHY / DIGITAL – Syllabus

Tyler School of Art/ Department of Art & Art Education/ ART 2811

Class Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30 – 7:00 PM at the TUCC campus

Critiques and Lectures are held in the Critique Room 317

Demos and Production Work are done in the Digital Studio 318

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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. The third is to communicate your discoveries. Photography is the medium through which we will achieve these goals.

There are no specific assignments in this class. It is up to you to discover what really interests you, and then make photographs that will excite someone else.

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.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student is expected to master the basic photographic skills quickly through the use of Lecture/ Demonstration, Independent Lab Work, and Group Critiques, and then concentrate on the use of photography as a fine art medium. The student is expected to demonstrate their full understanding of all tools and materials, produce a series of compelling photo projects that will cultivate a personal approach to the medium, develop the ability to use the vocabulary of photography to discuss their work, and understand the legacy of photography and how it affects digital photography today.

### LECTURE/ DEMONSTRATION

The basic technical information will be discussed with the class during the first several weeks. Additional lectures slide talks, and discussions on various topics will be presented in classes throughout the term. Student participation is very important.

The main topics covered are:

Camera technique -	the body, the shutter (shutter speeds), the lens (aperture & depth of field)
Exposure -	light meters, how sensors respond to light
Editing -	selecting and organizing photos
Processing -	input, adjustments, greyscale conversion, toning
Printing -	test strips, printing
Presentation -	matting, digital portfolio

Attendance at all class meetings is imperative as the material is too extensive to be repeated. Always bring materials and be prepared to work.

### INDEPENDENT LAB WORK

A portion of the semester will be spent in the Digital Studio in Workshop classes. It is expected, however, that most processing, printing, and finishing of photographs will happen outside of class time during Open Lab hours. 75 to 150 shots per week (the equivalent of 2 to 4 rolls of film) is the minimum to produce enough work to pass this course.

### CRITIQUES

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.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all class meetings is imperative as the material is too extensive to be repeated. After 2 unexcused absences the grade will be dropped one full letter grade. After the 3rd absence you will fail the class. Lateness will also affect the grade, including coming in more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early. Students should always have something to work on. If you do not, it indicates that you are not working hard enough. Always bring materials and be prepared to work. Not every lecture or demo will last the entire class. The phrase, "I forgot my files" will not be tolerated. This is equivalent to an absence.

## CRITIQUES & REVIEWS

You are required to show work on your scheduled crit day. Lateness is not permitted. Imagine you are working for the Philadelphia Inquirer. If you have no prints by the publication date you lose your job. It is that simple. You should show whatever you have finished on the day of your crit. This is why it is important to be working on several groups of photos at the same time, just in case something falls through. Do not ever cut a Crit to go shooting or do printing because you do not have enough work for the crit. It is better to show up empty handed than to miss the exchange of ideas where most of the teaching and learning actually takes place.

Final Reviews take place during the week of written final exams. (There is a cleanup day preceding finals that all are expected to show up for). The basic requirements for finals are a minimum of thirty prints, of which at least ten are matted, and at least ten are new.

## WRITTEN STATEMENTS

A typewritten statement explaining the perceptual, emotional, and intellectual motivations behind each of the three groups of photos being presented must accompany each critique. These must be handed in before the work is critiqued. This writing can be anywhere from nine words to nine paragraphs long. Include name, crit number, class, semester, and year.

## SELF-PORTRAITS

It is required that the work for each critique be accompanied by at least two self-portraits. You may want to consider starting and ending each time that you shoot with a self-portrait, no matter where you are when you start or end. Another approach is to take a self-portrait immediately upon rising and just before retiring each night. Or shoot at exactly the same time every day. We are not interested in nice pictures that your mother would like. We are looking for evocative character sketches.

## RESEARCH

The names of photographers and artists whose work relates to yours will be mentioned during critiques. The work of these people will be discussed at the next class session. You are expected to do research and come to the next class with a list of relevant web sites, a collection of 'borrowed' images from the web, and even a book or two that display this work. Any interesting strategies that you devise should also be written up, with example pictures and handed in for potential addition to the class web site.

## PICTURES of the WEEK

The best photographs from each person will be selected at the end of each crit. These prints will be hung on the POW Exhibition Wall and will remain on exhibition until the next crit. These prints will be held for the Photo Archives, so make duplicates. Do not remove these prints from the wall.

## VIRTUAL GALLERY

The POW Exhibition Wall will be duplicated online as a class web site. Your name and these web pages will be Googable within a couple of weeks.

The Pictures of the Week must be made into web-ready pictures and a thumbnail and copied to the appropriate folder in the Art Folder so they can be placed on the class web site. These web files are due by the end of the next class following the crit.

Lateness will not be tolerated. The page cannot be published until all photos are present. Failure to hand in the web files on time means you have not completed the critique and will not get credit for that crit. If you have 4 crits plus a Final, then each is worth 20% of the grade then missing one critique's web work drops an A/95 to a C/75. Not having the web work done embarrasses you, your class, your teacher, the Photo Area and Tyler School of Art in the public eye. This is unacceptable.

## DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Students are required to hand in a digital portfolio of your best work at the end of the year. An Artist's Statement will accompany the photos. The photographs must be formally labeled, and will be included in the TUCC Photo Archives and to shown to future students. Failure to hand this in on time will result in the failure of this class.

Do not wait until the end of the semester to start building this collection of work. It is best to select and organize your best work after each critique throughout the semester.

## 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.

## ID CARDS

You will need your Temple University ID Card to gain access to the building – diligently show your ID every time you enter the building. Don't kvetch about doing this, even though you think the security people know who you are. That is not the point.

*Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 at 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.*

## CONTACTS

TUCC Critique Room/ Room 317	204-1728
TUCC Digital Studio/ Room 318	204-0947
Department of Art & Art Education/ Tyler Building, Room 210J	777-9163
Steven Berkowitz/ Photo Area Head/ Associate Professor	berk@temple.edu
Web Site	www.berk-edu.com
Office Hours (by appt.)	Tuesday or Thursday 4:00 – 4:30 PM TUCC 317

## CLASSROOM & STUDIO ETTIQUE

**No Smoking** in the building.

**No food** in the Digital Studio.

Crumbs, let alone liquids, will destroy keyboards.

A drink may be kept on the table by the front door.

**No cell phones.** Turn cell phones OFF during scheduled class hours.

This means OFF, no text messaging!

Do not touch the screens!

Fingerprints on the glass interfere with the visibility of the images.

Clean the screen surface periodically with alcohol swabs.

**Clean up** any scraps of paper, even if they are not yours.

Clean the keyboards often with alcohol swabs.

Discard any unwanted test prints.

Clean up your area immediately upon arrival, and again before departure.

Double-check the functionality of your computer and all peripherals before you start working.

**No Internet use** during class. The internet may be used by logging into General User when not in class.

Technical Problems. It is inevitable that issues with the equipment will arise. The best solution is to keep a positive attitude and problem-solve by either contacting an experienced student, a lab tech, a professor or use the phone at the front of the classroom to contact Media Services in room 404 [x1-1515] to report any problems immediately.

Be aware that Media Services people do not know anything specific about the software use or about how the big printers work. They do know about general software and hardware issues.

Please be patient and always report any issues so they can be resolved for the next class coming in.

Do not save any files to the Desktop

Create a folder with your name and semester inside the TEMP folder.

e.g. firstname\_lastname\_S10

**Log out** when you are finished working, even if another class is coming in.

This keeps the computer better organized.

**Turn off all scanners** when finished working, even if you did not turn them on.

Put the white Backing Pad back into the scanner when finished scanning film.

**Leave the printers on** at all times.

**Sign out any ink carts** that get installed and write the date on the top.

Save the empty cart in the box at the front of the room.

## LAB ACCESS

The TUCC Digital Studio is open for student use according to the published schedule, available online at [www.berk-edu.com](http://www.berk-edu.com). Only students enrolled in a class this current semester are allowed in the Lab. Do not bring your friends to hang out.

Access to the Digital Studio is available through Media Services [x1-1515].

There is a house phone on the left side of the hallway, down the hall past the elevators.

Access to the Critique Room is available through the Security people at the front desk. Please be patient. The Security people have a lot to do and cannot necessarily leave their station at a moment's notice to open the room. But you will get in.