

Introduction to Digital Photography
TUCC/ Tyler School of Art
Adjunct Assistant Professor: Mary C. Rhodomoyer
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Course # 2811 Section: 402 Rooms 317 & 318
Class time: Tuesday & Thursday 4:30pm – 7:00pm
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course is a thorough introduction to digital black & white fine art photography. Photography presents itself as the interaction of two major elements, which involve the developments of photographic aesthetics and vision complimented by the use of strategic digital technology. Students will be instructed on the use and application of software, hardware and peripherals to realize digital black and white fine art photographs. Emphasis is placed on proper workflow, image making, image manipulation, research and the use of the camera to communicate your vision. Tutorials, lectures and critiques will make up the bulk of class time.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will:

- Illustrate a full understanding of the use of all the tools and materials needed in creating digital B&W fine art photographs.
- Understand and develop a sense of the language of photography, its history and ultimately its potential as a communicative medium.
- Produce a series of projects and a portfolio, which will be evaluated & discussed, and through those projects cultivate a personal approach to photography.
- Through evaluation and discussion, learn to think critically and articulate intellectual, aesthetic and emotional responses to photographs.
- Hone skills in written dialogue about the medium

Text

All Text can be accessed through Temple's On-Line Library

- Photoshop CS5 Bible
(<http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com.libproxy.temple.edu/9780470584743>)
- The Creative Digital Darkroom Katrin Eismann; Sean Duggan
- Photography & the American Scene, Robert Taft

Requirements

Attendance.

Attendance is crucial to your success in this course. You are allowed two unexcused absences throughout the semester. Your third absence will drop you a full letter grade. Do not be late for class! Respect your professor and fellow classmates by arriving on time. Lateness will adversely affect your grade, and a lateness of more than 15 minutes or leaving 15 minutes early will count as one absence. You must come to class prepared to work; anyone who *forgets* to bring materials will be given an alternate written assignment to be completed during class time to acquire credit for the day.

Visual Assignments/Technical Assignments

You will be given a visual assignment and a short technical assignment for most modules, which is approximately every two weeks. These assignments are the core of the class and make up the bulk of our class time. Grades will be based on your ability to answer the assignments both aesthetically and technically in an exploratory and imaginative way and then to analyze both the process and the end result of your photographs. You will be asked to bring your camera equipment to class every class period. You will get a partial or full lab day for each module and are expected to work in class on the class material the entire class period. Studio days are not for shooting and are not free days in which you can be absent. If studio days are not utilized fully they will become days for writing and lecture. You will need to spend approximately 6-8 hours of *homework* time outside of our scheduled class hours to complete assignments. Cdr's of all of your work will be collected both at mid-semester and finals.

WEB

The best photographs from each person will be selected at the end of each crit. These prints will be hung on the POW wall (Pictures of the Week) and will remain there until the next crit by that person. You will then be challenged to duplicate that print from your notes, to indicate that you have control over your printing technique. It is important to understand that Photography is a medium that makes many prints of the same image. The POW Exhibition Wall will be duplicated on-line as a class web site. The Pictures of the Week must be made into web-ready thumbnails and a web page containing that picture, all to be placed on the class web site.

Everyone is responsible for creating an individual web page for the first Critique, a full web-page version of the picture, and a thumbnail for the index page. These web objects are due during the next class following the crit. Do not come to class and say, "Oh, I forgot to bring my files" You should always have your most recent files on hand. For all subsequent crits only the full size web picture and the thumbnail are necessary. 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 teacher, the Photo Area and Tyler School of Art in the public eye. This is unacceptable.

Critical Analysis Papers

These assignments are typically based on a specific reading dealing with either photographic history or contemporary ideas and assigned along with your visual project. The essays are due with your visual projects and must be sent to my email address for grading. I will not accept hard copies. At least two times in the semester you will respond to a specific photographic show at one of the local galleries. The criteria for the gallery response papers are as follows:

- a) Description in detail of the show or piece as if the person reading your essay has never seen the work. Describe in detail the space, the materials and composition. Describe the voice of the work.
- b) Some background research on the artist or group showing the work and details about the formal faculties of the work or show.
- c) Your opinion about why the image stood out/ how you were affected by the work

Critiques

For those of you who have not been in a critique dealing with fine art, the art critiquing process is a method of organizing the facts and your thoughts and emotions about a particular work of art. It is very important that you develop a familiarity with specific elements of art and principles of design as they will provide you with the vocabulary and knowledge necessary to critique art intelligently. Please remember that not all people are going to agree with everything you might say, which is a good thing about the process! People bring into the crits their own sets of knowledge and experiences that are unique to them. Each person will be evaluated in critiques based on participation and the visual assignment.

Portfolio

Your final portfolio is worth 30% of your total grade. The portfolio contents are as follows: 20-25 new images (could be based on a previous assignment) 6 mats, 2 of the matted pieces will be labeled and handed in to the department for possible use in student exhibitions. You will need an artist statement, image list and title page with your images, all housed in an archival portfolio box. A final disc of final flattened images, labeled and in a CD jewel case handed in before your departure and a final web image representing your portfolio. We will review final portfolios via critique the last two class periods of the semester during normal class hours.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on a combination of the quality of your work, risk taking, how much you learn, your participation during class time, discussions and critiques, and the support and respect you give each other during class time. The **on-time** completion and professional presentation of all projects, enthusiasm, creative thinking, effort, following directions and technical ability will also be part of your grade.

I do not accept late work for any reason! There will be no excused lateness of assignments for equipment failures such as crashed HD's, printer problems and camera issues. Save your work regularly.

Work not turned in on time will receive a failing grade. You may hand in any reworked images at any time.

- Visual Assignments / Technical Assignments 400
- Final Portfolio 300
- Web 100
- Participation/ Critical Analysis Papers 100
- You will have a Mid-term or end of semester written test worth 100 total points

Disabilities

Any student who has need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the situation as soon as possible. Also contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 for further information.

House Rules / Etiquette

No cell phones. Turn cell phones OFF during scheduled class hours. No texting!

Internet use. The internet may be used by logging into general user during appropriate times.

Food and drink No food or open drinks are allowed by the computers! You may keep closed bottles on the center table. Please eat outside of the computer classroom.

Computer Stations. We take pride in our lab. Please keep the computer desktop clean by housing all files in your destined folders. Clean up scraps of paper and keep computer area clean. Log out when you are finished working.

Courtesy

Any student disrupting the class will be given a warning the next disruption will result in a drop from the course

Lab. It is inevitable in a group lab that issues with the equipment will occur. The best solution is to keep a good attitude and problem solve by either contacting a lab tech, professor or use the phone at the front of the classroom to contact AV in room 404 to report any problems immediately. Please be patient and always report any issues so they can be resolved for the next class coming in.

Door. If you arrive to class first please go to room 404 with your student ID and ask them to open our classroom. Your name will be on a list so the door can be opened for you.

Materials List

- Three ring binder and notebook
- Journal (blank pages)
- Digital camera with manual functions, 8MP minimum
- Note: As everyone has comparably different cameras it is important that you have an owner's manual. If you don't have an owner's manual either purchase one or download one from the web.
- Memory card with at least 512 MG (back up cards as needed)
- Card reader to read your specific card (Staples 10.00-19.00)
- External HD
- CDR (a package of 50)
- Media to be discussed (Canon or Epson 8.5 x 11 Presentation Paper Matte)
- Matting Supplies: Archival white mat board, blades, large photo corners (Calumet)
- Text available On-Line

There is much more information about this class and other classes offered by the department at www.berk-edu.com.