

## INDEPENDENT STUDY : PHOTOGRAPHY- Syllabus

Tyler School of Art/ Department of Art & Art Education/ ART 4882

Class Meetings & Critiques: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:00 or 7:30 – 10:00 PM  
at Temple University Center City Campus in Room 317 and Digital Studio 318

Darkroom work is done in the TYLER Photo Lab: Tyler Building, Rook B30K

### CLASS PHILOSOPHY

This class is designed for students who want to pursue a line of photographic art making that is outside the usual photo curriculum. This means you have to make something unique.

The content of the work for this class is totally up to you. It is required, however, that you **develop work following two distinct themes**.

The variations could be purely aesthetic but to make any of the technical considerations work, one must have a reason or motivation for using them. The form of the photographs has to be consistent with the content. "Form supports content".

This is achieved by developing a personal vision of what you want your photography to say (philosophy), and then building a visual vocabulary to design and construct the images (process), and finally displaying the final outcome in a unique format (presentation).

The success of the project is determined by how your audience perceives the work. This is the purpose of the critiques.

[philosophy, process and presentation = three disciplines]

### CLASS STRUCTURE / PROJECT PROPOSAL

This class functions as an Independent Study class, but with regular class meetings, and regular critiques. You must come to class the first week with your own two-part project proposal to be cleared by the instructor. Then you will do research on artists that are working in similar or inspiring ways, and produce photo-based images that are beyond the realm of 'usual' photo classes.

Possibilities could come from either an altered subject or an altered print, or could be some form of alternative presentation. Variations can be in the type of image capture, the type of processing, or again, the type of presentation. It is preferable that a combination of most if not all of these be used.

### ATTENDANCE & MENTORSHIP

You really do not have to attend every class. Many are specifically geared to teach the second and third level students. This is information you may already know. You are, however, invited to sit in on any classes or workshops in any photo class that you wish to gain a further understanding.

As top-level students we need you to mentor the beginner students. In return for not having to attend all the lectures and demos that you have already sat through and mastered the techniques and concepts in, we ask that you spend time in a class of your choice. You will become a Teaching Assistant for this class.

Select a class that meets at a time that is good for your schedule and tell your Professor what class you will be working with, so there is an even balance. Then you will meet with the Professor of that class and define a set of tasks that will benefit that class.

At the end of the semester that Professor will talk with your Professor to help decide your grade.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY : PHOTOGRAPHY - Syllabus, cont'd

### LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION

Technical and aesthetic information will be discussed with the individual students throughout the semester. The content is based mostly on aesthetic problems that are brought into class as part of each student's investigations. These classes depend on self-guided study and independent research. This is about discovering what you need to know to have your images express your personal concerns, and having the form support the content. Additional lectures, slide talks, and discussions will be presented during the term, consisting mostly of photographers' and artists' work that is mentioned in response to specific concerns that arise in student work. You are welcome to attend these, as you like.

### INDEPENDENT LAB WORK

The bulk of the semester will be spent preparing photographs shot and processed outside of class time. It is expected that the student will spend at least as much time working outside the class as in.

### CRITIQUES & REVIEWS

Student work will be discussed in periodic group critiques. You are required to show work on your scheduled crit day. There is no such thing as late. You should show whatever you have finished on that day. This is why it is important to be working on several groups of photos at the same time, just in case something falls through. 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 of the photos being presented must accompany each critique. These must be handed in before the work is critiqued. Include name, crit number, class, semester, and year.

### 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 meeting. 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 wall 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.

### VIRTUAL GALLERY

The POW Exhibition Wall will be duplicated online as a class web site. The Pictures of the Week must be made into web-ready thumbnails and a full-size picture, all to be placed on the class web site.

Everyone is responsible for getting their picture scanned, creating an individual web page for the current Picture of the Week, a full page version of the picture, and a thumbnail for the index page. These web objects are due by the next class following the crit.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY : PHOTOGRAPHY - Syllabus, cont'd.

### DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Students in this class are required to hand in a digital portfolio of your best work, formally labeled, for inclusion in the TUCC Photo Archives and to show to future students. It is best to build this portfolio throughout the semester. Students are also required to present an organized portfolio of prints in a booklet or case, plus a résumé.

### 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 actively participating in discussions, demonstrating an ongoing effort to produce quality work, and being on time for each class meeting. The grade of A is reserved for truly exceptional work. This is demonstrated by work that is well above the work of most other students in the class.

### ATTENDANCE

After 3 unexcused absences, the student is eligible for teacher initiated withdrawal. If this occurs after midterm, however, a failing grade will be reported.

If you see that you will miss a critique (any critique, not just the days on which you are supposed to show work), cannot show work on time, or miss more than three regular classes for any reason (other than hospitalization or incarceration or other tragedy), cannot hand in statements before the work is reviewed by the class, cannot meet the minimum recommended number of pieces, or cannot produce a portfolio at the end of the semester, it is suggested that you immediately withdraw from this class. These are the minimum requirements to pass this class.

### LAB USE

The TUCC Digital Studio and The TYLER Photo Lab are open for student use according to the published schedules, available online at [www.berk-edu.com](http://www.berk-edu.com). Only students enrolled in these photo classes this current semester are allowed in these Labs. Do not bring your friends to hang out. You will also have to take part in a Safety Training session.

There is absolutely NO FOOD or DRINK ALLOWED in any of the Photo Labs. There is NO SMOKING allowed anywhere in any Temple building.

### ID CARDS

To receive equipment to print you will trade in your Temple University ID Card. Ask the Lab Monitor for the necessary items.

*Any student who has a need an 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
TYLER Darkroom/ Tyler Building, Room B30K	777-9225
Department of Art & Art Education/ Tyler Building, Room 210J	777-9163
Steven Berkowitz/ Area Head/ Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:berk@temple.edu">berk@temple.edu</a>
Web site	<a href="http://www.berk-edu.com">www.berk-edu.com</a>
Office Hours (by appt.) Monday or Wednesday 4:00 – 4:30 PM	TUCC 317