

Art 2359-002, Introduction to Photography

Fall 2011

MW 2-4:50, FAB 346

Bryan Florentin

FAB 352

bryan@uta.edu

Office Hours: MW 9:30-10, F 11-noon or by appointment

Description of Course Content: This is an introductory course in photography as art and will be taught as if the student has no prior experience with black and white photography. Classroom lectures and laboratory demonstrations will emphasize darkroom procedures and use of small (35mm) format cameras and will provide students with a historical background in photography as art.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of manual 35mm SLR camera operation and black & white wet lab procedures (printing and film processing)
2. Illustrate knowledge of basic properties of b & w photographic materials: i.e., film, paper and chemistry.
3. Analyze negatives for proper exposure and processing.
4. Analyze prints to determine correct exposure and contrast.
5. Create continuous-tone silver prints that illustrate an understanding of tonal range.
6. Illustrate an understanding of how lighting, composition and point of view affect subject matter.
7. Demonstrate familiarity with selected historical and contemporary photographic art and artists.
8. Utilize black and white photography to express ideas.
9. Critique photographs in terms of form, content and technical skill.

Requirements: No course prerequisites

Textbook

No required text. Recommended optional text: *Photography*, London, Upton, & Stone, 9th edition

Description of Major Assignments (see attached schedule for due dates)

The production aspects of the course will consist of technical exercises and creative projects that will be explained in detail when the assignment is introduced. A synopsis is as follows:

1. **Two-Dimensional Subject:** students will photograph primarily flat surfaces under various lighting conditions with emphasis on texture, pattern, design, and tonal range.
2. **Three-Dimensional Subject:** this project emphasizes the effects that different apertures have on the camera's ability to focus and record depth in images.
3. **Four-Dimensional Subject:** using various shutter speeds, students will work with time and space relationships.
4. **Styles and Methodologies:** emulate the style or methodology of a well-known photographer as a way to engage in/with some historical or recent photographic practices.
5. **The Final Project:** students will produce a cohesive, formally presented portfolio of prints that explores a theme or concept of the student's choosing.

Exam

A mid-semester exam will cover technical and slide lectures and demos.

Grading (note that attendance affects grades—see attendance policy)

All assignments are due on the day of critique at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. Grades for late assignments will be lowered one letter grade for each class day it is late unless the absence is excused by appropriate documentation.

Individual project grade criteria will be indicated on grade/feedback sheets and will consider evidence of thought and conceptualization; effectiveness of approach in relation to subject; technical skills; meeting due dates; and other factors as appropriate for the assignment.

Grade format and indications:

A = Excellent (90-100)

B = Good but indicates minor problems (80-89)

C = Weak (70-79)

D = Very poor quality (60-69)

F = Unacceptable (0-59)

Course grade breakdown:

Mid-Term Exam: 10%

2-D assignment: 10%

3-D assignment: 20%

4-D assignment: 10%

Styles and Methodologies: 20%

Final Project: 30%

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are essential. After the third unexcused absence your final grade will be lowered by one letter grade for EACH additional absence. Three late arrivals constitute an absence.

If you miss a critique, the grade for that particular assignment will be lowered by one letter grade unless the absence is excused.

Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to

students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity

At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during

Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Faculty in the photography area usually schedule critiques for final portfolio class work during Final Review Week. Faculty are available during Finals Week for meetings, discussion and pick up of the final portfolios. The photography area schedules a Photo Area Portfolio Review during Finals Week after completion of 9 upper level credits and again at the semester prior to graduation. This is a comprehensive review with the entire photography faculty and is highly recommended although not required by the Art Department.

Schedule

Aug	29	Introduction
	31	Lecture: early photography Film exposure: f-stops and shutter speeds <i>2-D Assignment introduction</i>
Sept	5	Labor Day holiday
	7	Demo: camera operation; film exposure: film speed, metering, bracketing Demo: film reel loading Lecture/demo: film processing
	12	In-class film processing and evaluation: first roll of film due—bring exposed film, hand towel, negative sleeves and binder
	14	Printing demo: contact sheets—ALL students should have at least one roll of sleeved negatives ready for this hands-on demo; you will also need photo paper, cardboard & hand towel Process additional film
	19	Printing demo: prints (bring negatives & all darkroom supplies and materials)
	21	Lecture: depth of field <i>3-D Assignment introduction</i> Work time
	26	Critique: 2-D Assignment
	28	Lecture: camera types, special metering situations, equivalent exposure Demo: burning and dodging
	3	Lecture: properties of lenses
	5	Lecture: film types, film density, camera filters, film & chemistry Work time
Oct	10	Lecture Work time
	12	<i>4-D Assignment introduction</i> Work time
	17	Mid-semester exam 3-D Assignment due (at end of class period)
	19	Open lab

	24	Lecture Work time
	26	<i>Critique: 3-D and 4-D Assignments; 4-D Assignment due</i> <i>Styles and Methodologies Project introduction</i>
	31	Lecture Work time
Nov	2	Open lab
	4	<i>Friday - Last day to drop</i>
	7	Open lab
	9	<i>Final Project introduction</i>
	14	Open lab
	16	<i>Critique: Styles and Methodologies</i>
	21	Open lab
	23	Open lab
	28	Print mounting demo
	30	Open lab
Dec	5	Open lab
	7	<i>Critique: Final Project</i>
	14	Pick up projects: room 349 (print finishing room)

**Professor reserves the right to revise the schedule at any point during the semester.
Students will be notified in class of any changes.**

Supply List

35mm manually adjustable SLR camera with 50mm lens (or zoom lens that has 50mm within the range)

UV or UV haze filter for lens (optional but recommended)

35mm film (36 exposures)*: Kodak Tmax 400, Ilford Delta Pro 400, Ilford HP5 400,
or Fuji Neopan 400

25 sheet package (to start) or 100-sheet box of 8x10" paper:
Ilford Multigrade RC* – pearl surface is best, glossy is second choice (do not buy flat)

25 sheet package of Clear File or Print File negative sleeves for 35mm (style 5 x 7)

Ilford or equivalent quality anti-static cloth

Rubber bulb air blower (Rocket at Arlington Camera, Hurricane at Freestyle)

Three ring binder to store negative sleeves

Print sleeves for contact sheets

1 sheet opaque cardboard, approximately 8x10" (needed for darkroom work all semester)

File folder (or envelope) to hold 8x10" prints and contact sheets

Sharpie ultra-fine black marker

Hand towel (must be carried in the lab at all times)

Mounting board (for Final Project only) – purchase from *focus* later in the semester

NOTE: Film and photo paper cannot be returned or exchanged, so choose carefully!

***Don't** buy any film labeled **"C-41"**. These are chromogenic films that must be processed in **color** chemistry!!!

****If you purchase any paper other than this, make certain that it's *variable contrast and resin coated (RC)*.**

Resources:

Local

Arlington Camera

Competitive Camera (Dallas)

Web

Freestyle (freestylephoto.biz)

B&H (bhphotovideo.com)