

ART 250, Photography I; Chen Carmi, Spring 20145

Time: TR 11:00-13:45

Room: AC334

Contact: chen.carmi@csun.edu

Office: The photo lab

Office hours: Thursday 13:45-14:45

Catalog Description

“Basic instruction in the creative use of the camera and printing techniques. Instruction in basic principles and darkroom experience. Emphasis on photography as a fine art, stressing beginning visual awareness and craftsmanship.”

Course Description and Objectives

- Learning the fundamental principals and techniques of photo-shooting: the use of analog photographic equipment and the black and white chemical photographic processes.
- Getting to know photography as a fine art medium: expanding your knowledge and gaining enriching vocabulary relevant to the field. Learning to use the class (and similar artists gatherings) as an arena for fruitful discussions on art.
- Developing a body of work

Student Learning Outcomes

- Obtain ability to impose a frame upon the three-dimensional world and translate it into two dimensions. In other words, as you learn how lenses “see,” you will gain much more control over the images your camera produces.
- Getting to know the photography as a rich and complicated visual tool for communication. You will learn why a certain image is more successful than others (can ugly photograph be successful? Can we replace words such as “pretty” and “cool” with more accurate vocabulary?)
- Control your own work of art: learn how to create accurate exposure, develop your films properly and create prints to the highest standards.

Critiques & Participation

The course is designed to guide your learning process through demonstrations by the instructor and your active participation. Your presence is required, come to class ready and on time. You are allowed to miss two classes, but more absences will affect your grade; missing more than five classes will result in failing the course; late arrival equals 1/3 absence; 30 minutes late (or more) equal absence. Please track your attendance. Lab time should be considered as an opportunity to develop technical skills, ask questions and share information. Please be active and use this time wisely. Critiques are an opportunity to show your work and ask for feedback. It is also the place to look, analyze and learn from other students' works and challenges. Please demonstrate active listening and real interest in others' work. I expect all students to participate; if you feel a great difficulty to talk in a group, share your concerns with me.

Requirements

- Submit all assignments on time; failing to do so, without a compelling and documented reason, will result in 55 (F) for your grade. The minimum rolls of films to be used for each assignment is two. The minimum number of prints to be printed and submitted is four. Submit full frames only (do not crop images). You are required to submit all of your contact

- sheets for each assignment.
- Present your work on your critique days. Do your best to meet academic standards: submit the best prints you can produce and spend some time thinking about the way you want to hang and present them.
 - During the semester you will give a 10-15 minute presentation on a known photographer. You will be given a list of significant artists in the field to choose from.
 - One or two quizzes will be given during the semester to assure your understanding of the basic technicality that is required. The minimum grade to pass those quizzes is 75. Students who will fail to meet the minimum grade will submit a written essay to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the subject, in order to complete the course.

Grading

Assignments - 60%

Presentation - 25%

Attendance and participation - 15%

Final grade breakdown

100-93 A
92.99-90 A-
89.99-87 B+
86.99-83 B
82.99-80 B-
79.99-77 C+
76.99-73 C
72.99-70 C-
69.99-67 D+
66.99-56 D
55.99-0 F

Materials List

- 35mm SLR Camera with capability to manually adjust the aperture and shutter speed with an exposure meter.
- 4 rolls of film to start, Ilford HP5 plus is a good choice for beginners. In any case make sure not to purchase process C-41 film which is not for processing in the B/W lab.
- Small box (25 sheets) of RC (Resin Coated) and multigrade paper to start. I recommend: Ilford multigrade MGIV RC. 8x10/25 glossy. (Do not open at home or anywhere but the darkroom!)
- Poly negative sleeves for 35mm films to store your negatives.
- Negative binder/box to store negative sleeves.
- Dust gun/canned air
- Towel
- Pen and pencil
- Scissors
- Stopwatch.

These are your very basic needs, which you are expected to have ASAP. Many of the items can be found in the school's art store. Remember to show your student ID to sellers and ask for discounts.

Text book

Henry Horenstein, *Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual*

We have many other manuals and books in the school's library and plenty of information is available online. Books of art are great fun and your best teachers: go to the library. Another great resource that is available for you is artsy.net (similar to pandora, but with images).

Students with Special Needs/Disabilities

It is your responsibility to inform me of any university verified disability during the first two weeks of class so that arrangements can be made. Useful information about the CSUN Center for Disabilities found online: <http://www.csun.edu/cod/>

Academic Honesty Policy

Standards of academic honesty and integrity will be upheld. Students are expected to abide by the policies set forth by the Academic Senate (see links below). All work presented must be the product of students' own ideas and efforts. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in follow up with the Academic Integrity Committee. CSUN policies on plagiarism found online:

http://catalog.csun.edu/policies/_academic-dishonesty/

New Work Required Clause

Students must produce new work (both negatives and prints) for this course. Work submitted/made for other classes cannot be submitted for grading in this class. If this occurs, the student will automatically receive a grade of 0% for the assignment and will not be able to resubmit it.

Professional Attitude and Practice

Student code of conduct found online:

http://catalog.csun.edu/policies/_student-conduct-code/

Course Material

Be advised that material/images shown or discussed in this class may be considered controversial or offensive to some. If you are too uncomfortable to remain in the class, you may leave during the visual presentation but must return for the in-class discussion. I do ask that you be willing to discuss/explain your concerns with me.

Classroom Environment

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Turn off your cell phones during class. Laptops are not allowed during lectures.

Darkroom Environment

Darkroom chemistry is toxic and can cause serious damage. Improper use or handling of chemistry will not be tolerated (including improper disposal of chemicals). If you don't know what to do, ask a lab monitor. Students are also not allowed to bring food or drink into the darkroom. Lab policies will be enforced during class time as well as during open lab hours.

Suggestions

- Set aside at least five hours per week for darkroom work (outside of class time)
- Show me your work in progress and be open to feedback
- Take responsibility of your own learning
- Enjoy

Course Schedule:

Please note that this schedule is subject to change

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1	1/20 Introduction: Syllabus, requirements etc. The beginning: Light, negative and exposure.	1/22 Lecture on: Aperture, shutter, depth of field, freezing and blurring.
2	1/27 Bring your cameras and films. We will practice manual control. Assignment: Shoot two rolls of film and explore the different exposure possibilities.	1/29 Quiz (on all basics you learned so far). Lecture: How to use reels in containers. Loading practice. Tour in the lab.
3	2/3 Lab: Develop first roll of film.	2/5 Lab: using the enlargers, making a gradient test strip-black to white.
4	2/10 Lab: using the enlargers, making a gradient test strip-black to white. Printing contact sheets	2/12 printing selected frames.
5	2/17 Lab: printing selected frames.	2/19 Critique on Aperture/shutter assignment.
6	2/24 Lecture: Composition and 'The Decisive moment'. Assignment: shoot decisive moments	2/26 Students presentations. Lab
7	3/3 Lab	3/5 Students presentations. Critique on decisive moment (group 1)
8	3/10 Students presentations. Critique on decisive moment (group 2)	3/12 Students presentations. Critique on decisive moment (group 3)
9	3/17 Lecture: Staged Photography Assignment: Shoot Staged Photography	3/19 Students presentations. Lab
10	3/24 Lab	3/26 Lab
11	3/31 Cesar Chavez Holiday	4/2 Students presentations. Critique on 'Staged Photography' (group 2)
12	4/7 Spring Recess; no instruction	4/9 Spring Recess; no instruction
13	4/14 Students presentations. Critique on 'Staged Photography' (group 3)	4/16 Students presentations. Critique on 'Staged Photography' (group 1)
14	4/21 Lecture: Self Portraits Assignment: Shoot Self Portraits	04/23 Students presentations. Lab
15	4/28 Students presentation. Critique on 'self portraits' (Group 3)	4/30 Students presentation. Critique on 'self portraits' (Group 1)
16	5/12 Students presentation. Critique on 'self portraits' (Group 2).	