ART 250: Photography I / Course Syllabus (Fall 2013)

Instructor: Dr. Arimitsu
Office: ADC 334 Tel. 818-677-3035 (Private Line) or 3059 (Photo Lab)
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 7:30–8:00 AM and 4:45–5:45 PM;
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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. 5 hours lab.

Course Description:
1. To understand the relationships between f-stops, shutter speeds, and film speeds in correctly exposing black and white films with manual and/or automatic camera mode.
2. To learn and practice the basic black and white techniques in film exposure, development, printing, and print finishing.
3. To extend one’s knowledge of photography through classroom critiques, discussions, and evaluations of both student and significant photographic artists’ work.
4. To begin utilizing this knowledge and these photographic tools in one’s own self-expression, through further development and refinement of one’s style.
5. To begin comparing and practicing the basic principles underlying both digital and film-based Photography.

Art Department Program Goals Addressed in This Course:
1. Basic Skills: Develop a foundation of art knowledge, theories, skills, craftsmanship, and technologies, through which ideas and concepts are communicated in writing, speaking, and art making.
2. Art Knowledge: Broaden knowledge of ancient through contemporary art and develop an understanding of art within theoretical, cultural, and historical contexts.
3. Critical Thinking: Analyze, interpret, and question traditional methodologies and pre-conceived notions of art and art making through the process of generating and solving problems.

Student Learning Outcomes in This Course:
1. Understand and apply the elements and principles of design as they relate to photography’s ability to impose a frame upon the three-dimensional world and translate it into two dimensions.
2. Acquire and apply beginning photography knowledge and skills by using analog photographic equipment and processes.
3. Acquire knowledge of the history of photography and contemporary photography by looking at other artists’ photographs.
4. Analyze photographs, both verbally and written, through critique and self-reflection.
5. Approach image making from a conceptual perspective by using the camera’s frame to create content.

Academic Integrity and Performance:
1. CSUN expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in an honest and professional manner. Disrespectful activities such as inappropriate comments, texting, emailing, Internet surfing or talking will result in a lower grade. Please turn off all cell phones during class. Your offence of any type listed above will be counted against your final grade.
2. If a student is caught cheating in any form, he/she will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the University for appropriate disciplinary action. This applies to attending required class sessions, doing assignments, taking the exam, etc.
3. Plagiarism (using others’ ideas and words in your work without clearly acknowledging the source of that information) will not be tolerated. If you are not sure what plagiarism means, consult the following two websites:
   http://library.csun.edu/Research_Assistance/plagiarism.html; http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/

Course Structure:
1. Material will be presented through lecture, class demonstrations, class discussions, audio-visual materials, and critiques.
2. Labs will also constitute and important learning environment.

Course Procedure: (for help: read Textbook Chapters and/or to go www.digitaltruth.com for photographic reference. You may email your instructor for help at any time)
1. Assignments will be shot on black-and-white films unless otherwise indicated. For Assignment 4 and Final Assignment, you may use your own digital camera and peripheral equipment to produce digital prints.
2. Film will be processed using Kodak HC-110 (Dilution B: 7 oz water with 1 oz HC-110 concentrate) unless otherwise indicated.
3. Prints will be made on any variable contrast / multigrade RC (Resin Coated) based glossy (“F” Surface preferred) paper. The use of fiber based papers are not allowed. Graded papers can be used but more expensive to buy.
4. Normally all prints will be produced on 8” x 10” paper, permanently dry mounted to plain white, gray or black 11” x 14” mat board with a contact sheet, known as contact print or proof, of the entire roll mounted in the back unless otherwise indicated. Photo spray can be used to mount the photos at home, not at school lab.
Assignment Expectations:
1. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class.
2. Assignments are normally due between 4-6 class periods after the date assigned, unless otherwise indicated.
3. Text reading assignments as indicated in the course daily schedules are always expected prior to attending 13 mandatory meetings except lab days.
4. One “free” late assignment is allowed, subsequent late assignments will draw a 10% (three points (ex. B down to C) penalty on the assignment score.
5. Assignments may be re-done within two weeks of receiving graded work back from the instructor for full credit, with the exception of penalty points for late or incomplete work.
6. Assignment missing the contact sheet, sometimes called “contact print or proof” (when it is required to be printed) of the entire roll on the back of a board will be penalized 5% on score.
7. Student absence on a day in which as assignment is due constitutes a “late” assignment unless the student has made prior arrangement with the instructor, or had work delivered to class by another individual.

Attendance And Classroom Expectations:
1. Attendance and punctuality are expected in this class. Absenteeism and 15 minute-tardiness will not only affect one’s overall understanding of the material presented, but their grade as well. One tardy arrival of more than 15 minutes will draw one point (ex. B down to B-) penalty on the assignment score of a particular assignment period.
2. There will be 13 mandatory attendance required during the entire semester in which your perfect attendance will earn you a grade of an A (4.0 points) for the 20% of your course grade; one absence a B (3.0), two a C (2.0) and so forth. The rest will be individualized open-lab hours.
3. Make sure to sign in the roster on these 13 days (see Course Daily Schedules)
4. Students are responsible for material missed due to absence.
5. Students should not call the Visual Arts Office if they are unable to attend class. For an emergency, email at arimitsu@csun.edu

Required Materials:  (Tentative Lists)
1. Manually Adjustable 35mm Camera or Equivalent with optional equipment (to find an old camera manual, go to: www.butkus.org)
2. 100 sheet box of 8” x 10” glossy resin-coated (RC), variable contrast paper (50 sheets for Digital Assignments 4th & Final) (ex. Arista –Ultra or Il VC RC, Kodak Polycontrast III- F, Ilford Multigrade IV-F, AGFA Multicontrast RC, Fotamate MG-VC RC),
4. Four to six sheets of 35mm Negative sleeves (available at Photo Lab for a price)
5. Towel (NO PAPER TOWELS)
6. Up to ten sheets of 8” x 10” Dry Mount Tissues (available at Photo Lab for a price) or a can of Photo Mount Spray (used at home)
7. Up to five Mounting Boards (11” x 14”) – black on one side and white on back (available at Photo Lab for a price)
8. Variable Contrast Printing Filter Set (ex. Fotokemika’s Varycon Variable Contrast Filter Set 3” x 3” - $10? available at www.freestylephoto.biz, local specialized photo supply stores or the internet stores. A set of 5 ½” x 5 ½” fits perfectly, but is 3 or 4 times more expensive, thus, a set of 3” x 3” will do the job with a devise (ex. binder clips) used to attach below the enlarging lens. (Helpful Hints): Ilford Starter Kit with Printing Filters can be purchased at Freestyle or other suppliers at around $75 which includes 50 sheets B&W 8” x 10” paper, 6” x 6” Ilford MG Filter Set.

Optional Supplies (Not required, but strongly recommended):
-Photo Thermometer (Strongly recommended) (Glass Thermometer at $7?)
-Agfa 8X magnifying loupe
-A small penlight (either in red or amber color - no white or blue light)

Grading:
Final grades will be made with a (+ or -) designation and each assignment. Grades will be given based on points (A=4.00, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.00, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.00, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.00, D-=0.67, F=0.00)
*Attendance (13 sessions) ------- 20% *Term-exam ------------- 20% *Presentation ---------------- 5%
*Assignments (4 assignments) ------- 40% *Final Assignment ----- 15%


Important Email Instruction:
All students are reminded to use their CSUN email address for course related business. If you prefer to use your personal account when reading your mail and would like to have CSUN mail forwarded into it, with your CSUN ID and Password, log into the myNorthridge Portal at www.csun.edu and, in the My Email Forward Settings, type your private email address. Your instructor will occasionally email you with assignments, and other course related matters. Students are also encouraged to email your instructor for any question you may have.

Printing Handouts Prior To Attending Mandatory Classes: Approximately one week prior to each mandatory class, your instructor will send you an email with handouts. You are required to print all handouts and review them prior to attending classes.