

ART 132-Beginning Black and White Photography
8 Sundays 1:15-4:45pm, Fall 2007
Augsburg College
Instructor: Lex Thompson
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Course Objective

This course is designed for the beginning black and white photography student. Students will be introduced to basic photographic technique beginning with camera operation and film exposure followed by film development and darkroom techniques for printing. Students will learn the vocabulary to discuss and criticize photographs, and will be encouraged to use the medium in a creatively expressive manner. Time will be spent in the darkroom processing film and making prints and in the classroom critiquing assignments, and looking at historical and contemporary black and white photography. Outside of class students are expected to photograph their assignments, process film, do some printing, write a short paper on a black and white photographer and visit several local exhibitions.

At the completion of the course, students will have the skills to develop film and print black and white photographs, be knowledgeable about historic and contemporary black and white photography, and utilize photography as a creative medium.

Supply list:

photo supply kit (This kit will be given to you the first class session. The rest of the supplies you may already own, but if not, you need to buy them for this class)

35mm camera with a normal (50mm) lens and manual settings

PLEASE NOTE: if you own a camera that has both manual and automatic settings, bring your instruction book to class if you do not know how to use your camera!

rubber gloves

extra fine point sharpie marker

towel or apron

scissors

8x10 piece of opaque cardboard

Presentation Book to hand in assignments (either a ONE inch 3-ring binder with CLEAR plastic sleeves to put photos in OR an 8x10 inch portfolio book)

Schedule:

September 9th

BRING YOUR CAMERA!! You won't need the other supplies until the next session.

In Class: darkroom orientation, class introductions, questionnaire, review supply list, introduction to your camera, explanation of shutter speed and aperture control

Assignment #1 - shutter speed and aperture control - bring film to class next week - 4 prints due October 21st

Assignment #2 – Go see 2 photo shows and write a 1 page response paper – due Oct. 7

bring for next class session: one roll of film you shot

September 23rd

In class: film processing demo, mixing chemistry demo, printing darkroom demo, contact sheets

October 7th

In class: black and white photography slide show

Print contact sheets and make enlarged photos

Assignment #3 - landscapes and cityscapes - 4 prints due November 4th

Assignment #4 – Two page photographer paper with at least 4 supporting images – due November 19th

Due at beginning of class: Assignment #2 – response paper to two photography shows

October 21st

In class: Demo of dodging and burning printing techniques, darkroom printing time (develop film or print for assignment #3)

Assignment #5 - portraits and self portraits – 4 prints due November 18th

Due at beginning of class: Assignment #1 - shutter speed and aperture control

You must meet with me individually during class to discuss your prints.

November 4th

In class: class critique of work from assignment #3,

darkroom printing time (develop film or print for assignment #5)

Assignment #6-Final Project– A series of images – 6 prints due December 9th

Due at beginning of class: Assignment #3 - landscapes and cityscapes

November 11th

You must have gotten final project idea approval from me via email by today

November 18th

In class: critique of Assignment #5

darkroom printing time (develop film or print for assignment #6 – you MUST show me at least one contact sheet for your final project today)

Due at beginning of class: Assignment #4 – two-page photographer paper and Assignment #5 - portraits and self-portraits

December 2nd

In class: darkroom printing time

December 9th

In class: final critique

Due at beginning of class: Assignment #6 - Final Project

**Class requires a MINIMUM of 8 hours of individual work outside of class between sessions*

Suggested reading

(This is not mandatory-if you like to read technical information, you will like this book)
Black & White Photography, A Basic Manual by Henry Horenstein

Grading:

Assignment #1	10%
Assignment #2	10%
Assignment #3	20%
Assignment #4	15%
Assignment #5	20%
Assignment #6	25%

Grading will be based on a combination of criteria:

Meeting the requirements of the assignment (number of rolls shot and prints made)
Technical print quality (i.e., exposure, contrast, density)
Conceptual image quality (i.e., creativity, the relationship of form to idea)

Completion of the minimum adequate requirements of the assignment will result in a C. Making good images and good prints, demonstrating creative thought and technical expertise will result in a B. An A on an assignment, is reserved for excellent prints that demonstrate great creative ideas of the artist.

Photo supplies and Camera repair

If you are buying a camera, I prefer the basic models—manual adjustments, 50mm lens—the simpler the better. You want to stay away from cameras with a lot of extra bells and whistles. Pentax, Canon, Nikon, and Fuji are good brands.

West Photo (Supplies and Camera Repair)

21 University Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55413
612.379.2321

National Camera Exchange (Supplies)

Several locations in the area

DigiGraphics (Film Processing)

2639 Minnehaha Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.721.2434
M-F 8-6

Attendance Requirements

We only meet for 10 class sessions, thus it is VERY important that you come to each meeting, ESPECIALLY so for the first 4 meetings and critique days. If you miss a class, you will not have the skills to do your work in the next session, or your assignments. It is also VERY important that you come to class on time. I will not repeat the information that I have already covered, so you are responsible for getting it from a classmate. It is very disruptive to your classmates to come to class late.

***If you miss more than one class or are late to class more than twice, your final grade will be deducted .5 points for EACH subsequent absence or lateness.

Grades

4.0 = 100-92
3.5 = 91-87
3.0 = 86-82
2.5 = 81-77
2.0 = 76-72
1.5 = 71-67
1.0 = 66-52

Late Work:

Assignments are due on the date noted in the syllabus WITHOUT EXCEPTION. If you are ill and won't be in class, you or a friend needs to bring your assignment that night for it to be counted as on time. Email me immediately about emergency medical conditions and be prepared to bring a doctor's note to the next class.