

Art/IT Advanced Photography Syllabus 4301-004

Sul Ross State University, Spring 2020

Instructor:

Cindy Sims
cas17kn@sulross.edu

Class Meets: IND. Rooms 105 & 109

Tuesday 6 – 8:50 pm & additional Lab hours, TBA
January 13 – May 6, Final Exam: Monday, May 4, 6 – 8 pm

Office Hours:

Tuesdays before and after class and other times TBA

Course Overview:

This is an advanced class in black and white film photography and darkroom printing. We will cover advanced techniques in shooting with a film camera, advanced darkroom printing and also lighting techniques including flash and studio lighting. Lectures will cover the work of historical and contemporary photographers who have used film processes and any other historical photographers relevant to specific discussions. There will be an emphasis on final print quality, the ability to think and speak critically about your photographs and speak about the work of others. The course is designed for students wanting more experience in the darkroom and with advanced lighting practices and other photographic techniques.

***Know this: This class is not difficult but the **time commitment and expense** for the class is considerable. Please talk to the instructor if you have concerns.

Course Materials

NOTEBOOK (Please, take a lot of notes.)

8 x 10 B&W film and printing paper

*Film camera – school has some available for checkout

*Tripod - school has some available for checkout

Mat Board to display final images

***Know this: Film and photographic paper are expensive. Plan to spend about \$100 on supplies.

Resources

B&H- www.bhphoto.com

Amazon Prime- www.amazon.com (enter that you are a student for Prime trial)

Freestyle Photographic Supplies – www.freestylephoto.biz

Assessment & Grading Criteria

You will be assessed in each class on your progress in technical accomplishments and participation in lectures, discussions, assignments, critiques and weekly quizzes. Your grade will be based on class participation and the quality of the effort you put into completing all assignments. Being in class is very important. If you miss class, catching up is your responsibility.

Photography assignments count 40% of your grade. Quizzes count 10%, Midterm exam is 15%, Written and oral report on a darkroom photographer presented in class 15% and Final Portfolio Review/Exam counts 20%.

Workload and Requirements

There will be five assignments, a written and oral report, a final portfolio presentation, classroom critiques, quizzes and a midterm.

Students with Special Needs:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the Student's responsibility to initiate a request. Please contact me, Ms. Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Director/Counselor, Accessibility Services Coordinator, Ferguson Hall (Suite 112) at 432.837.8203; mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Students should then contact the instructor as soon as possible to initiate the recommended accommodations.

Student Learning Objectives

#1 Students will be able to visually communicate an original idea or concept through an original artwork.

- Proper techniques applied to the medium
 - Use of principles and elements of good composition
 - Development of technique and personal style
 - Use of original concepts and non-clichéd ideas
- Marketable Skill:** Creating ideas with independence of thought.

#2 Students will demonstrate proficiency in writing within the art discipline.

- Display the ability to meet Texas Art History objectives: (TASA standards)
 - An understanding of the impact of individuals, historical events, religious and philosophical concepts on art making in various periods.
 - Demonstrate proficiency in discipline specific writing.
- Marketable Skill:** Communicating professionally through written and spoken presentation.

#3 Students will demonstrate knowledge of the professional practices pertaining to their BFA degree track (or Industrial Technology):

- Demonstrate the ability to create a cohesive body of work with a defined technique or personal style and understand health and safety practices in the studio.

Marketable Skill: Solving problems through critical thinking.

Individual Photography Assignments

Five photography assignments are required, each designed to teach new photography skills or improve and build on existing skills.

1. Printing with contrast filters (may be 5x7 images)

All remaining prints must be 8x10 or larger!

2. Advanced portrait – either a studio portrait or a window light portrait with fill light
3. Using Flash
4. Night Photography
5. Work on a personal project (approved by instructor, you will write up a proposal) that has technical and artistic challenges that you are interested in mastering (At least five 8 x 10 images, more is better)

Example of Personal Project Proposal:

I want to work on using natural light more effectively. My subjects will be outdoor portraits, landscapes and cityscapes showing the people and landscape in and around West Texas, particularly Alpine, Texas.

Technical Challenges: 1) Exposure – metering correctly in different lighting – daylight, indoor window light and twilight or maybe night conditions. Where and how to take light meter readings to obtain the best exposure. 2) Using some fill light if necessary, maybe fill in flash or reflectors. How and when to do so. 3) Printing full tone, rich prints with good contrast.

Compositional or Artistic Challenges: Learning to see and use light in my photo compositions – recognizing what light can do for a subject, using light to create mood, drama, tension or even delicacy. Make light work for me and my photos, creating rich interesting images where light ‘reveals’ the subject.

Written Report and Class Presentation

Choose a darkroom photographer whose work you admire. You will write a 2 page paper (more on this later) detailing the photographer’s life and times briefly, but mainly critiquing the images for composition, technical skill, lighting, etc. Also relate why you think this work is important and what about it moved you. The paper will be handed in

for a grade but first you will give a 5 minute presentation to the class on your photographer, showing the work and talking about it. In class, show scanned images on the computer. Also, there should be a few print out copies of the work to accompany your paper and show in class.

Final review/exam: (Monday, May 4, 6 – 8 pm)

We will orally critique your final portfolio in class. This will consist of your personal project plus 2 – 4 of your best prints from the semester. So, you could have 6 – 8 or more images.

You will also turn in a written critique of your final project.

This is the exam portion of your final review and will count 30% of your final review/exam grade, so make your critique well-written and thoughtful. Answer some of these questions in your critique:

What did you feel was your most successful image and why? What, if anything connects your pictures? Is the connection thematic or aesthetic? How could your images improve? What did you feel was your least successful image and how would you improve it? Are your photographs functioning well technically and conceptually? How? Do you feel that your meaning, message or feelings were at least partially conveyed to your audience? Could others feel your passion? Did you make us care?