

# Art/Industrial Arts 3310-001 Photography

## Sul Ross State University, Fall 2021

### **Instructor:**

Cindy Sims  
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### **Class Meets: IND. Rooms 105 & 109 & outdoors as much as possible**

Tuesdays, 6 – 8:50 pm & additional Lab hours, TBA  
August 23 – December 1, Final Exam: December 6, 6 – 8 pm

### **Office Hours:**

Tuesdays before and after class and other times TBA

**COVID:** Our lab is small and poorly ventilated. Even before COVID, I strongly suggested wearing masks and gloves in the lab to avoid chemical exposure. While the chemicals are not extremely dangerous, many people are sensitive to chemical inhalation and skin contact. I am fully vaccinated and will be wearing a mask. I care for my elderly father and must be extremely cautious. Masks are greatly appreciated.

### **Course Overview:**

This is an introduction to black and white film photography and darkroom printing. We will cover the basics of shooting with a film camera, using the darkroom and also basic lighting techniques. Camera phones will be used as a tool to explore composition and lighting techniques. Besides teaching the techniques of using film, lectures will also 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 work and speak about the work of others. The course is designed to make students comfortable with the basics of photography and using film cameras and the darkroom.

\*\*\*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.)  
Sketchbook/notebook for artist/photographer journal  
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 or more on supplies.

## **Resources**

B&H- [www.bhphoto.com](http://www.bhphoto.com)

Amazon Prime- [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (enter that you are a student for Prime trial)

Freestyle Photographic Supplies – [www.freestylephoto.biz](http://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. As there is no text for the course, the instructor will give many lectures and demonstrations that will be difficult to repeat or for you to make up. If you miss class, catching up is your responsibility.

Photography assignments count 40% of your grade. Quizzes count 10%, Midterm exam is 15%, Image Notebooks and class sharing of your images counts 15% and Final Portfolio Review/Exam counts 20%.

## **Homework Policy**

It is important to stay on track with this class because we'll be covering material that builds on the previous week's class, so keep a steady workflow and don't get behind. If you miss a class, refer to that week's assignment in the syllabus, talk to classmates to get class notes and see me as soon as you can.

## **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 photography lab.  
**Marketable Skill:** Solving problems through critical thinking.

### **Artist/Image Journals**

Each of you will make a notebook dedicated to photographs and photographers that currently interest you in some way. Every week you should add 1 - 2 names and photographs. Please write a few sentences about the photographer and then write a few sentences about the image you have chosen. Why makes you love it? What are the techniques or compositional qualities that make it good? Identify the direction and quality of light. Since we are working in black and white, most of your images should be B & W. If you do use a color photograph, make sure you copy it in color.

Every couple of weeks we will take time for you to share one image & photographer with the class. This is meant to help you build a working knowledge of photo-history and current photography and to apply this knowledge in critiques and when you shoot your own photos. I will take up the journals at mid-term for a grade. At the end of the semester, you should have at least 16 entries and half of them should be film/darkroom photographs, but the others can be digital images. Include as many photographers as you like. This journal, plus sharing the images in class counts as 15% of your grade.

### **Tentative Class Schedule**

#### **August 24**

1. Introductions & Course overview.
2. Discuss Assignment #1, The Photogram
3. Watch PBS Documentary, American Photography—A Century of Images.

Homework: Watch Part II, American Photography on YouTube at your home.

#### **August 31**

1. Exposure Lecture & basic review of camera function
2. Assignment #2 – The 4 Directions of Light, demonstration & shoot with phones
3. Darkroom & Photogram Demonstration & start Photogram project

Homework: Shoot your first roll of film – Assignment #2 – The 4 Directions of Light.

Watch Part III, American Photography on YouTube. Quiz next class.

### **September 7**

1. Quiz – The Camera & Basic Exposure & Questions on American Photography
2. Lecture & demo: Developing film
3. Lab – Develop film & work on Photograms in darkroom

### **September 14**

1. Quiz – More on Exposure & Developing Film
2. Printing Lecture & Demonstration, Contact Sheets, Test Strips, & Prints
3. Lab – Finish Photograms, Develop Film or Begin making contact sheets

### **September 21**

1. Quiz – Basic Printing
2. Brief critique of work in progress - photograms, contact sheets & tests prints
3. Share an image from your Image Journal in class.
4. Lab – finish photograms, work on Assignment #2, The 4 Directions of Light

### **September 28**

1. Quiz – Darkroom Techniques & Advanced Printing
2. Photograms due & #2 Lighting Assignment in progress – critique in class
3. Lecture & Demo – Controlling Depth of Field and Motion

Homework: Shoot Assignment #3 – Depth and Motion

### **October 5**

1. Quiz – Depth of Field & Advanced Exposure
2. Share an image from your Artist/Image Journal in class.
3. Lab – Darkroom or Develop Film.

Next Class: Assignment #2, 4 photos due

### **October 12**

1. Critique Assignment #2 – The 4 Directions of Light
2. Lecture & Demo – The Expressive Portrait, Portrait Assignment #4
3. Lab – Darkroom or Develop Film

Homework: Shoot Portrait Assignment #4 Next class: Artist/Image Journals due

### **October 19**

1. Artist/Image Journals due
2. Review Midterm (2/3 Term)
3. Lab – Darkroom or Develop Film

Next Class: Assignment #3 – Depth and Motion, 3 photos due

### **October 26**

1. Critique Assignment #3 – Depth and Motion
2. Midterm (2/3 Term) Exam
3. Lab

## **November 2**

1. Discuss Final Project – Assignment #5 (3 – 5 photographs)
2. Share an image from your Artist/Image Journal in class
3. Lab

Next Class: Assignment #4 – The Expressive Portrait, 2 portraits due

## **November 9**

1. Critique – Assignment #4 – The Expressive Portrait
2. Lab

## **November 16**

1. Share an image from your Artist/Image Journal in class, plus quick look at work in progress on Final Project – Assignment #5
2. Lab

## **November 23**

1. Lab

Next Class - Artist/Image Journals due

## **November 30**

1. Artist/Image Journals due.
2. Critique Final Project (you have until Monday December to complete but must show mostly completed project in class).
3. Lab

## **Monday, December 6, 6 – 8 pm – Final Exam/Critique**

Final Portfolio consisting of Final Project and a few of your best images from the semester. Prepare written critique ahead of time.

## **Final review/exam**

We will orally critique your final portfolio in class. This will consist of your final project plus 3 – 4 of your best prints from the semester. So, you could have 6 – 8 or more images. The final project consists of 3 – 5 images so it will count most heavily in the portfolio.

\*\*\*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?