

Art/Industrial Arts
Special Topics: Photography 3310-001
Sul Ross State University, Fall 2023

Instructor:

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Class Meets: Rooms 103 (classroom) & 109 (darkroom) in the IT Building

Tuesdays, 6 – 8:50 pm. Additional Lab hours TBA

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 4:30 – 6:00 pm or by appointment

Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to black and white film photography and darkroom printing, designed to make students comfortable with the basics of photography and using film cameras and the darkroom. We will cover the basics of shooting with a film camera, processing film, and printing in the darkroom. We will examine the work of historical and contemporary photographers engaged in analog photography processes and explore the relevance of analog photography in the digital age. There will be an emphasis on final print quality, creativity, and the ability to think and speak critically about your work and the work of others.

Blackboard will be used weekly for the distribution of readings, videos, PowerPoint lectures, and assignments. If you do not have reliable internet access, please talk to the instructor.

***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.

Required Course Materials

- Sketchbook/notebook for Artist Journal
- Notebook for taking notes on lectures and demos (or you can use the same notebook as your artist journal)
- Binder for storing negatives, prints, and assignments
- 35mm camera (provided by the instructor)
- 35mm film (6 rolls provided by the instructor, acquire additional rolls on your own)
- Enlarging paper (10 sheets provided by instructor, acquire additional paper on your own)

Lab Fees

There is a \$75.00 lab fee for Photography. This fee will cover 6 rolls of film, enlarging paper, chemicals, and other materials used for projects done for class only. All lab fees must be paid into the Art Stores Account at the Cashier's office in Briscoe Administration Building (BAB) and a receipt provided to the instructor no later than Tuesday, September 19th, 2023.

Sourcing Film and Paper

As the semester progresses, you need to acquire paper and film on your own so that you have enough materials to complete the assignments. I recommend purchasing either Ilford HP5 400 or Kodak Tri-X 400 Black & White 35mm Film and Ilford Multigrade RC Deluxe Pearl 8x10 paper. These items can be found at the following businesses:

- Precision Camera – www.precision-camera.com
- B&H – www.bhphoto.com
- Freestyle Photographic Supplies – www.freestylephoto.biz
- Marfa Film Shop (film only) – www.marfafilmshop.com Support our local film shop if you can!

Assessment & Grading Criteria

You will be assessed in each class on your progress and participation in lectures, discussions, assignments, and critiques. 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. Much of the work for this course cannot be done outside the lab. The knowledge needed to complete assignments will be gained through in-person lectures and demonstrations that will be difficult to repeat or for you to make up. If you miss class, catching up is your responsibility.

How you are graded: Photo assignments - 40%. Class participation in critiques, presentations, and discussions - 20%. Artist Journals - 20%. Final Project - 20%.

Late assignments will be deducted 10 points out of 100 per class meeting.

Work Policy & Absences

It is important to stay on track because we will cover material in class each week that builds on the previous weeks. Don't skip class & don't get behind. If you must miss a class, you **must let the instructor know and schedule a time to make-up work you missed**. Keep up with the assignments posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to catch up. Recurring absences will affect your participation grade.

ADA Statement:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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 each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to expressively communicate an original idea or concept visually through an original artwork.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in writing within the art discipline.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of professional practices pertaining to their area of specialization.

Marketable Skills:

- Creating ideas with independence of thought.
 - Students will learn to produce work in a timely manner.
 - Use of original concepts and non-clichéd ideas.
 - Demonstrate the ability to create and curate a cohesive professional exhibition of well-crafted and thematic work with a defined technique or personal style.
 - Ability to produce professional documentation including advertising (posters & postcards), artist statement, press release, resume, digital records.
 - Faculty will integrate the information into lectures, workshops, etc.
- Communicating professionally through written and spoken presentation.
 - Students will demonstrate the ability to create a cohesive capstone with a defined technique or personal style.
 - Ability to produce a professional portfolio that meets current industry standards.
 - Faculty will integrate the information into lectures, workshops, etc.
- Solving problems through critical thinking.
 - Students will learn to produce work in a timely manner.
 - Use of original concepts and non-clichéd ideas.
 - Demonstrate the ability to create and curate a cohesive professional exhibition of well-crafted and thematic work with a defined technique or personal style.
 - Ability to produce professional documentation including advertising (posters & postcards), artist statement, press release, resume, digital records.
 - Faculty will integrate the information into lectures, workshops, etc.

Weekly Responsibilities

- **Readings and Films**

Each week you will be assigned short readings and/or relevant films on photographic concepts, techniques, or history. These will be posted on Blackboard. Write a short response to the assigned material in your **Artist Journal**. I will provide prompts on Blackboard to serve as guides for your reflections. Be prepared to discuss your reflections in class.

- **Artist Journals**

Throughout the semester, you will keep a notebook dedicated to photographs and photographers that interest you, responses to readings/film assignments, and reflections on your progress throughout the course. 1-2 new entries should be added every week. Creativity is encouraged – feel free to include drawings, poems, maps, tokens of inspiration, etc!

At midterm and the end of the semester, we will take time for you to present one image/photographer with the class. Your journals will also be collected for a grade at these times.

- **Photo Assignments**

5 photo assignments and a final project will be assigned throughout the semester. Each week, you will take photographs with your film camera, develop film, and/or print photographs in the darkroom.

Tentative Class Schedule

August 29

- Introductions & Course Overview
- Assignments:
 - Read introductory materials
 - Watch: The Gelatin Silver Process & The Analogue Photography Series: Film is Still Alive
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

September 5

- Camera Check Out
- Lecture on camera function, exposure, and composition basics
- Darkroom & Photo Assignment 1: Intro to darkroom process and photogram demonstration
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard

- Photo Assignment 1: Collect photogram materials
- Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

September 12

- Introduce Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light
- Using our cameras – photo practice excursion
- Demonstration on processing film (part 1)
- Lab – Photograms and film rolling practice
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

September 19

- Demonstration on processing film (part 2)
- Lab – Finish photograms, develop film for assignment 2
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

September 26

- **Critique – Assignment 1: Photograms**
- Contact sheet and printing demo
- Lab – Make contact sheets and print assignment 2
- **Introduce assignment 3: Depth of field and motion**
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo assignment 3: Depth of field and motion
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

October 3

- Printing Demo
- Lab – Print assignment 2, begin processing assignment 3
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo assignment 3: Depth of field and motion
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

October 10

- Lab: Assignment 2 & 3
- Upload progress images to blackboard - discussion
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Assignment 2 due next week
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

October 17

- **Critique – Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light**
- **Introduce Photo Assignments 4 - Portraiture & 5 - Landscape**
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 4: Portraiture
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal (have at least 12 entries completed by March 15!)

October 24

- Lab – developing assignment 4/5, finish printing assignment 3
- **Midterm - Artist Journals (part 1) Due – Class sharing and discussion**
- **Introduce Final Project**
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 4: Portraiture
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Write final project proposal
 - Weekly reading/watching on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

October 31

- **Submit Final Project Proposal**
- **Assignment 3: Depth of field & Motion Due**
- **Critique – Assignment 3**
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Work on your Artist Journal

November 7

- Lab – work on assignments 4 & 5
- Assignments:
 - Create proposal for final project
 - Weekly reading/watching on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

November 14

- Lab – work on assignments 4 & 5
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment: Final Project
 - Weekly reading/watching on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

November 21

- **Assignments 4 & 5 due**
- **Critique – Assignments 4 & 5**

- Lab – Final Project
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment: Final Project
 - Work on your Artist Journal

November 28

- Lab – Final Project
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment: Final Project
 - Additional lab time TBA
 - Work on your Artist Journal

December 5 – Last Class Day

- **Artist Journals due**
- Lab – Final project
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment: Final Project
 - Additional lab time TBA

Final (Date/Time TBA) – Final Project Critique

Final Project – Presentation of a final project consisting of six to eight prints with a cohesive theme and commentary on your work. Be ready to defend your work and critique the work of others.