

Special Topics: Photography | ART 3310-001

Sul Ross State University, Spring 2024

Instructor:

Shea Carley

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

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:50 pm. Additional Lab hours: TBD

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.

Required Course Materials

- Sketchbook/notebook for Artist Journal
- Notebook for taking notes on lectures and demos (you can use the same notebook as your artist journal if you choose)
- 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, February 13.

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

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, including weekly reading 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. Come to office hours or schedule a time meet with the instructor.

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. 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 Schwartz

Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@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.

- **Lab**

Additional darkroom (lab) time will be scheduled most weeks. Work in the darkroom outside of the scheduled class time is often necessary in order to complete your photo assignments on time.

Tentative Class Schedule

January 23

- Introductions & Course Overview
- **Photo Assignment 1: Photogram**
- Intro to darkroom process and photogram demonstration
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 1: Collect photogram materials
 - 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

January 30

- Camera Check Out
- Lecture on camera function, exposure, and composition basics
- Lab - Photograms
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Get to know your camera (explore functions, practice changing fstop/shutter speed)
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

February 6

- **Due – Assignment 1: Photograms**
- **Introduce Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light**
- Using our cameras – photo practice excursion
- Demonstration on processing film
- Lab – 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

February 13

- Lab – Develop film for assignment 2
- Contact sheet demo
- **Introduce assignment 3: Depth of field and motion**
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light
 - Assignment 3: Depth of field and motion
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

February 20

- Lab – Develop film, Make contact sheets for assignment 2
- Printing Demo
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light
 - Photo assignment 3: Depth of field and motion
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

February 27

- Lab: Assignment 2 & 3
- Assignments:
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Photo Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light
 - Photo assignment 3: Depth of field and motion

- Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

March 5

- Lab: Assignments 2 & 3
- **Due: Assignment 2: First Pictures & 4 Directions of Light**
- **Critique – Assignment 2**
- **Introduce Photo Assignments 4 - Portraiture & 5 - Landscape**
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 4: Portraiture
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Weekly reading/film on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

SPRING BREAK

- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 4: Portraiture
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal (have at least 6 photo entries and reading/film responses completed by next class!)

March 19

- 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
 - Brainstorm final project ideas
 - Weekly reading/watching on Blackboard
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

March 26

- **Assignment 3: Depth of field & Motion Due**
- **Critique – Assignment 3**
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment 4: Portraiture
 - Photo Assignment 5: Landscape
 - Write final project proposal
 - Work on your Artist Journal

April 2

- **Submit Final Project Proposal**
- 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

April 9

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

April 16

- Lab – Final Project
- Assignments:
 - Photo Assignment: Final Project
 - Write reflections and/or add one photographer to your Artist Journal

April 23

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

April 30 – Last Class Day

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

May 6 – Final Project Due & 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.