

**Art Studio Concentration: Photography II 3301**  
**Sul Ross State University, Fall 2025**

**Instructor:**

Shea Carley

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512-496-8917

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

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

**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:00 pm or by appointment

**Course Overview:**

This course is designed for you to expand your photography skills and knowledge. This is a project-driven course in which you will focus on improving your personal photographic practice. Due to the small class size and the nature of this course, this course will function in-part as an independent study with the instructor and will include frequent class discussions, collaborations, and critiques. Emphasis will be placed on personal creative vision and growth, the technical quality of your work, and ability to think and speak critically about your work and the work of others.

Throughout this course you will learn and practice advanced film photography and darkroom techniques and become further acquainted with darkroom set-up and chemicals. You will have the opportunity to try out new cameras and films, to work with experimental processes, color, and/or digital.

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 (or you can use the same notebook as your artist journal)
- Binder for storing negatives, prints, and assignments
- 35mm black and white film and/or color film
- Enlarging paper
- 35mm camera (provided by the instructor)

**Lab Fees**

There is a \$25.00 lab fee for this class. This fee will cover materials and chemicals 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 16, 2025.

### **Sourcing Film and Paper**

Paper and film can be purchased from the locations below. Kodak Tri-X 400 Black & White 35mm Film and Ilford Multigrade RC Deluxe Pearl 8x10 paper are always great options, but because this is an advanced course, you may want to try out other film and paper options to expand your experience with materials. We will discuss alternative options throughout the course.

- Precision Camera – [www.precision-camera.com](http://www.precision-camera.com)
- B&H – [www.bhphoto.com](http://www.bhphoto.com)
- Freestyle Photographic Supplies – [www.freestylephoto.biz](http://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. 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: Class participation in critiques, presentations, and discussions - 10%. Photo Assignments - 20%. Artist Journals - 10%. Photographer Research Projects - 20%. Semester Project - 40%.

### **Class Environment**

This class is structured to be accessible and enjoyable for everyone. I am more than happy to work with you on your individual needs. I aim to foster an environment that is supportive and collaborative. Come ready to work with others, ask questions, freely express in a safe space, and, hopefully, decompress through artmaking.

Because of the emphasis on free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas, we must all help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. There will be zero tolerance for harassment, belittlement, or discrimination against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference.

### **AI & Plagiarism**

All assignments should be fully prepared by the student. The majority of the work in this course, being with analog materials, is untouchable by AI. For the writing components of the course, AI usage is strictly prohibited. Developing strong competencies in communicating about your work and the work of others will prepare you for success in your academic career and beyond. Therefore, the use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact me.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Course Responsibilities**

- **Readings, Films, and Reflections in your Artist Journal**

You will periodically 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 guide for your reflections. You will also be asked to make entries documenting your progress on your semester project, inspirations, and influences. Be prepared to discuss your reflections in class.

- **Photo Assignments**

Photo assignments focusing on advanced photo techniques and alternative processes will be assigned throughout the semester. These assignments are intended to expand the breadth of your photographic skills.

- **Semester Project**

You will establish an ongoing photographic project with a cohesive theme to be completed throughout the semester. The topic and resulting final product will be of your choosing. You will work closely with the instructor and other students as your project progresses, accepting feedback on your work and offering feedback to your classmates' work. This project will serve as the final for this course.

- **Photo Research Project**

You will complete two photo research projects throughout the semester. For each project, you will choose a relevant topic – either a specific photographer or photographic movement/discipline – and prepare PowerPoint to present to the class.

Topics will be agreed upon in advance with the instructor. For each topic, you will need to choose at least two books and a few additional materials (articles, essays, exhibition reviews, etc.) to support your work. The first project will be due March 6 and the second project on the final class day, May 1.

## **Tentative Class Schedule**

### **August 27**

- Introduction & Course Overview
- Group discussion of course
- Assignment: Write proposal for semester project ideas

### **September 3**

- Discussion of proposals
- Introduce Photo Research project
- Darkroom set-up and breakdown: demo & lecture
- Lab Time – 8x10 prints
- Assignments:
  - Read/Watch on Blackboard
  - Begin considering topics for research project
  - Finalize proposal for Semester Project

### **September 10**

- Introduce Assignment 1: Flash
- Group Discussion: Semester Project & Research Project
- Flash practice
- Assignments
  - Assignment 1: Flash
  - Acquire materials for Research Project

### **September 17**

- Lab – Assignment 1
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research Project
  - Artist Journal

### **September 24**

- Assignment 1: Flash
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research Project
  - Artist Journal

### **October 1**

- Assignment 1: Flash Due
- **Assignment 2: Color Film – Introduction**
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research Project
  - Artist Journal

### **October 8**

- Lab – Assignment 2: Color – Processing Color
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research Project
  - Artist Journal

### **October 15**

- Lab - process & print
- **Research project due, class presentation**
- **Artist Journal Part 1 Due**
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research Project 2 - Proposal
  - Artist Journal

### **October 22**

- **Semester Project Check-in - share contact sheets, prints, discuss with class**
- **Research Project Part 2 – Proposal Due**
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Research project 2

### **October 29**

- **Assignment 2: Color Due**
- Lab – Assignment 3
- Assignments:
  - Semester project
  - Research project 2

### **November 5**

- **Assignment 3: Pinhole Camera**
- Lab – Assignment 3
- Assignments:
  - Semester project

- Research project 2
- Artist Journal

### **November 19**

- **Due: Assignment 3: Pinhole Camera**
- Assignments:
  - Semester project
  - Research project 2
  - Artist Journal

### **November 26 – Thanksgiving**

- **No class**

### **December 3 – Last Class Day**

- **Research Project 2 Due: Class presentations**
- **Artist Journals due**
- Lab – Semester project
- Assignments:
  - Semester Project
  - Additional lab time TBA

### **Tuesday, Dec 9, 6 – 8 pm – Final - Semester Project Presentations**

Presentation of a semester-long project with a cohesive theme and commentary on your work. Be ready to defend your work and critique the work of others.