

PGY 2401C-02
Photo I
(darkroom/silver-based photography)
Fall 2008

instructor: **Andrew Ross**
office hours: **Mondays 6-8pm**
email: **andrew@andrewross.com**
phone: **919.260.7537**

Course Syllabus

General Information

Meetings: Monday, Wednesday 12:50 – 3:20pm
Classroom: FAB 335 and 336
Prerequisite: none

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to familiarize you with technical aspects and controls of a manual 35mm camera together with silver-based black & white film developing and printing methods. Once you have acquired these skills, you will learn to create photographic images that convey your own unique and artistic ideas. During this class, you will also develop a fundamental vocabulary and aesthetic sense for the constructive critique and appreciation of photography. By the end, you will be using your new camera skills and developing/printing techniques to generate a photographic portfolio piece of your own design.

This course has a heavy workload as well as significant financial requirements. Expect to spend 8-10 hours of work outside of class time each week, so rethink taking this course if you have a busy schedule or little free time. Also, as photography is a very technical medium that depends on proper tools and supplies, which can cost a lot of money, *expect to spend at least \$300 on materials and supplies for the semester.* (And that does not include the cost of a camera, which you will need to purchase if you do not already have one or have access to borrowing one.) A poorly managed work schedule or lack of monetary funds is not an acceptable excuse for late or incomplete work during the course.

Projects and Quiz

We will produce four photographic projects and a final portfolio piece during this course. These will progress from basic ideas in photograms and photographic printing, to usage of camera controls, to creating portraits, to a final project of your own design. This final project will include various stages of completion that will factor into your grade. A single quiz will be given to test your knowledge of photographic terminology, aspects of camera control, developing and printing procedures, etc. – from topics covered in class, in the book, or in readings.

Grading

You will be expected to attend all classes, complete all projects, and participate fully in class discussions. I have a very strict late policy, so make special note of the project due-dates outlined below.

Grading Scale:

93-100 A
90-92 A-
87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
60-69 D
< 60 F

Expect no more than 25% of the class to receive an A

Late projects will lose one letter grade if not presented during class critiques, and one additional letter grade for each DAY (not class) late beyond the critique – that's TWO letter grades if turned in the following day after it is due. Have your projects ready on time!

Grades are not subject to negotiation.

Your overall grade will consist of 4 projects (worth 10% each), 1 quiz (10%), a participation score (10%), and a final project (40%). As you can see, this gives heavy emphasis to your final project, where I expect you to demonstrate the many skills you have learned throughout the semester along with good quality, theme, and presentation to your artistic concept. This final project will include intermediary steps to its completion that will be factored into your grade. **Late projects are penalized severely, as noted above.**

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation is essential to academic success. Therefore, I include attendance and participation in my grading. Missing class will cause you to quickly fall behind on the techniques and concepts. And I see participation in class discussions and critiques as providing the wonderful benefit of peer-to-peer learning.

Whereas participation is a factored percentage of your overall grade, attendance has the ability to raise or lower your final grade from your calculated score. Poor attendance will result in a lowering of your overall grade, but I will also reward good attendance with bonus points, as follows:

- If you do not miss a single class during the entire semester, 4 points will be added to your overall grade (that's almost half a letter grade!)
- If you miss only one class, 2 points will be added to your overall grade
- Missing up to three classes is acceptable and will result in no penalty
- Every class missed beyond three will result in a drop of one letter grade (10 points)
- Additionally, three late arrivals to or early departures from class count as an absence

Excused absences are absences none-the-less – I make no differentiation. I have no qualms about failing you for poor attendance. This policy is not flexible, so be in class and be on time!

Required Text

London, Barbara and Stone, Jim. [A Short Course in Photography](#), 9th ed. Pearson, 2008.
(*This book is available at the FSU Bookstore, Bill's Bookstore, as well as many area retail and on-line distributors. A used copy of the 7th or 8th edition is acceptable, too.*)

Other readings may be provided during the semester, including handouts, on-line readings, or downloadable/emailed PDFs.

Supplies Needed

- A 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera with manually adjustable aperture, shutter speed, and focus. You will need this camera (in good, working condition) by the second week of the course, so start looking now for new, used, or borrowable cameras. (*Recommended models: Nikon FM10, FM2, FM3, FE2, N8008; Canon Rebel, AE-1; Pentax KM, K-1000, ZX-M. Older, used cameras are often fine – bring them to me if you need help ascertaining their working condition.*)
- Black & White film: *at least* 12 rolls of 400 ISO, 36 exposure, 35mm film (*Kodak Tri-X, Ilford HP-5, or Fuji Neopan 400 – ONLY one of these films*)
- Black & White photographic paper: 8x10" Resin-Coated (RC) Multigrade paper, box of 100 sheets (*recommended: Ilford or Arista*)
- One 9x12" manila envelope for turning in your photos
- Negative-sleeve pages: 8.5x11" with 7 rows of 5 frames, package of 25 (*Recommended: Printfile or Clearfile, that will fit 3-ring binder*)
- Three-ring binder: 1" or 2" capacity, for holding negatives and contact sheets
- Can of compressed air and/or Ilford Anti-Static dust cloth
- Sharpie fine-tip permanent marker

Other recommended supplies:

- A tripod and cable release that will fit your camera
- Old clothes or an apron and a small hand towel for working in the darkroom

Note: your final project will require additional materials depending on the format you choose to present your work – mattes, mounts, frames, book materials, etc.

Email/ Cell Phone Policy

You are required to regularly check your email account, as this is where outside-of-class updates and notices will be sent (I will have you provide me with your preferred email address; if you generally use a different email account than your FSU account, I recommend setting your FSU email to forward to whichever email provider you prefer). You will be responsible for all information and updates pertaining to the class sent to you via email. Therefore, check your email often. I generally check my email 3 or more times per day, so this is also the best way to contact me.

Cell phones are both a blessing and a curse. The number I have provided above is for my mobile (and only) phone, so please do not call me late at night or on the weekends expecting to just “leave a message”. Generally, I prefer you contact me via email. For your own cell phones, *I don’t want to see or hear them during class*. You won’t see me making or answering phone calls (or text messaging) in class, so pay your fellow students and me the same respect – **turn it off or silence it!**

If your phone rings during class or I see you using it, I will ask you to leave and mark you absent for that class. Or you can accept the alternative punishment of bringing treats for the *entire* class during our next meeting.

Special note for cell phone use in the darkroom (FAB 335): cell phones are **absolutely** prohibited in the darkroom. Not to be used, EVER! Leave it outside in your book bag, as any light emitted by a cell phone will damage your own photo paper and likely the work of others. If I see a cell phone light up in the darkroom, you will be immediately removed from class and marked absent. No “treats” option for this transgression!

Resources for Cameras and Supplies

Everything Photo and Frame 2655 Capital Circle, NE (behind Gold’s Gym) 850.386.1090 www.everythingphotoandframe.com	Calumet Photographic Web / mail-order (LA, NYC, Chicago) 800.CALUMET www.calumetphoto.com
Tallahassee Camera & Image Center 2880 Apalachee Pkwy 850.877.1152 www.talcam.com	Freestyle Camera Web / mail-order (Los Angeles) 800.292.6137 www.freestylephoto.biz
B&H Photo Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.606.6969 www.bhphotovideo.com	Adorama Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.223.2500 www.adorama.com
KEH Camera Web – used cameras and gear (Atlanta) www.keh.com	

Checkout Procedures for FSU Equipment

There are limited loaner cameras and other equipment (tripods, lenses, flashes) available through the FSU photo cage (room 335). Loans are for 24 hours, so only rely on this for special needs or if you have problems with your own equipment. Loss or damage of Art Department equipment will result in an incomplete grade in the course until the equipment is returned, repaired, or replaced (eventually becoming an “F” if the situation is not remedied). All borrowed equipment must be returned on time, or this will result in the loss of checkout privileges.

Class Schedule

Date	Topics	For the next class
Monday 25 Aug.	Introduction. Course requirements. Discussion of the nature of light, the photographic process, and camera obscura.	Buy textbook and order supplies; If you can, bring your SLR camera to next class
Wednesday 27 Aug.	Basic camera controls; f-stops and shutter speeds; lenses; terminology	Read chapters 1 & 2; bring photo paper, film, and your camera to next class
Monday 1 Sept.	No Class – Labor Day!	<i>Be sure to bring photo paper, film, and your camera to next class!!!</i>
Wednesday 3 Sept.	Depth of field and control of motion through camera settings; lighting considerations and reciprocity effect; loading film. Photogram demo.	Read chapter 4; begin experimenting with your camera; make some photograms
Monday 8 Sept.	Exposure controls through shutter, aperture, film speed; equivalent exposures	Read chapter 3; finish Photogram project
Wednesday 10 Sept.	Photogram critique	Read chapter 5; finish your first roll of film with experimental shots
Monday 15 Sept.	Film developing demo, cut and sleeve negatives	Read chapter 6; finish developing your first roll, cut and sleeve your negatives
Wednesday 17 Sept.	Printing demo – contact sheet, test strips, full prints, use of filters, split-filter printing	Make contact sheet of first roll; print at least 3 different negatives; start shooting a second roll, experimenting more from what you learned
Monday 22 Sept.	Lab day – discuss your contact sheets and test prints	Finish second roll, develop, and contact
Wednesday 24 Sept.	Lab day	Read chapter 18; finish First Prints project
Monday 29 Sept.	First Prints critique	Re-read chapter 18; start shooting for <i>Motion and Depth of Field project</i>
Wednesday 1 Oct.	Intro to the history of photography; a look at different camera/film formats	Need to shoot 3 rolls for <i>Motion/D.O.F.</i>
Monday 6 Oct.	A look at digital photography, contemporary photographers	Keep shooting for <i>Motion/D.O.F.</i>
Wednesday 8 Oct.	Use of filters and the temperature/color of light, a look at color photography	Develop film, contacts, test prints for <i>Motion/D.O.F.</i>
Monday 13 Oct.	Lab day	Final prints for Motion and Depth of Field project
Wednesday 15 Oct.	Motion and Depth of Field critique	Reading TBD on portrait photography
Monday 20 Oct.	Concepts and methods for photographing people	Start shooting for <i>Portraits project</i>
Wednesday 22 Oct.	Demo on photographing people	Need to shoot 3 rolls for <i>Portraits project</i>
Monday 27 Oct.	Lab day	Keep shooting for <i>Portraits project</i>
Wednesday 29 Oct.	Lab day	Read chapter 12; Develop film, contacts, test prints for <i>Portraits</i>

Date	Topics	For the next class
Monday 3 Nov.	Discussion of final projects and presentation methods	Final prints for Portraits project ; write up proposal for Final Project
Wednesday 5 Nov.	Portraits critique , turn in Final Project proposal	Start shooting your final project; we will discuss proposal and your first roll
Monday 10 Nov.	No Class – SPE Conference	Develop and contact your first roll for <i>Final Project</i>
Wednesday 12 Nov.	Lab day / individual meetings to discuss proposals and first roll	Shoot, shoot, shoot (at least 3 more rolls)
Monday 17 Nov.	Presentation demo / lab day / individual meetings	Have contact sheets to discuss with instructor (this is graded)
Wednesday 19 Nov.	Lab day / individual meetings	Work prints to share with instructor (this is graded)
Monday 24 Nov.	Book-making demo / lab day / individual meetings	Final prints to share with instructor (this is graded)
Wednesday 26 Nov.	Lab day / individual meetings	Work out your presentation method
Monday 1 Dec.	Lab day / individual meetings	Put it all together...
Wednesday 3 Dec.	Final Project critique	

The Fine Print...

Florida State Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of student's academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (The full Academic Honor Policy is at <http://www.srr.fsu.edu/academic.htm>)

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. (More information about services available to FSU students with disabilities can be found at <http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu>)

Non-Discrimination Policy

Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. (Information on Florida State University's non-discrimination policy can be found at <http://www.diversity.fsu.edu>)

Sexual Harassment Policy

Sexual Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. (Information on Florida State University's non-discrimination policy can be found at <http://www.auditservices.fsu.edu/sh>)

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Version 1.0, created 23 August 2008