

Course Title: Black and White Photography II
Course Code: PHOT 312
Credit Hours: 3

Location: Dark room 1, Photo lab building
Instructor: Maria Drakaki or Michael McCarthy
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Office Hour: by appointment
Office location: by appointment

Syllabus

Course Description:

This intensive studio and instructive workshop is designed for students interested in photographic theory, and who want to develop and produce a coherent body of work. It includes group work in photography, discussion, and lectures. Students will have many opportunities to explore places, people and ways of living, helping them develop in-depth work that addresses our perceptions. The course helps students situate their work in today's world of photography. Students are further encouraged to work on their own and are required to attend additional film and slide lectures, art awareness excursions to Classical Cycladic sites and photographers' studios.

Course Details:

Students will be encouraged to develop a personal point of view and unique vision of their experiences. The importance of research and development, as well as in-depth work in the darkroom and or Photoshop tools, will be emphasized in student projects. Students will have the opportunity to work more closely with an instructor as well as have the chance to work on more independent projects of their own.

The class will to function somewhat like a workshop where different students will to be working with a variety of techniques and processes, from traditional black-and-white documentary images, if they choose, to making collages using digital camera images, and which the student will use for one or more projects.

Students select two from among five possible projects (Pattern and Texture; Creative Composition; Island Life; Cycladic Architecture; Historical Site Portfolio) to develop a more in-depth exploration of these topics, and chose one for submission as a final project. Students are encouraged to further refine and personalize their approaches and responses to these proposed projects.

A wide variety of photographic work and theory will be considered during class time to enable students to define the goals and approaches to their work. Technical demonstrations, group and individual critiques, field trips to shoot photographs, lab time as well as class discussions relating to readings handed out or questions asked of students to write about, will remain central to the course.

Course Objectives:

- *The course will encourage students to develop a personal point of view and unique vision of their experiences.
- *The course will emphasize the importance of research and development, and in-depth work in the darkroom and/or Photoshop tools for student projects.
- *Students will work closely with an instructor and work on more independent projects of their own.
- *The course will require students to significantly improve their technical abilities to expose negatives and make increasingly technically perfect prints.
- *The course will introduce students to photographic theory and intensively use photographic vocabulary.
- *Students will add work to their professional portfolios that reflects cohesive visual thinking and their coherent and personal vision and mode of expression.
- *Students will receive individualized guidance in art and graphic design techniques that will help them produce creative digital images.
- *Students will be immersed in Greece and Greek culture in ways that allow them to develop an original view for photography.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will have further developed their technical abilities in exposing negatives and making technically perfect prints.
- Students will have further developed their professional portfolio.
- Students will be able to demonstrate mastery of the language of photography.
- *Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with photographic theory.
- Students will have further developed a coherent and personal vision and mode of expression, and have developed cohesive visual thinking.
- Students will have produced creative digital imaging through continued individualized guidance in art and graphic design techniques.
- Photographic interaction with Greece and Greek culture: historical and present-day, and develop an original view on this much photographed subject.

Grading:

Letter grades are based on the breakdown below;
20% 1st Project
40% Final Project
20% Journal entries and written assignments

10% Oral Presentation
10% Class participation

- Two in-depth projects with individual or group critiques are scheduled. They will be due at the beginning of class on the day scheduled for critique. Assignment sheets handed out in advance will describe the topic and the number of required prints and contact sheets. Grades will be given for each assignment based on the quality and, in some cases, the quantity of prints ready for a critique. Quality is defined by technical proficiency (good, clean prints presented professionally) as well as by aesthetic and conceptual strengths evident in the work.
- One Oral Presentation introducing a photographer's work to the class
- Regular journal entries responding to articles and other exercises assigned.
- Experimentation: signs a student is taking risks, trying new approaches.
- Commitment to and participation in class discussions. Student involvement in each other's critiques is essential. The more considered and sensitive responses a student can receive the more he or she will benefit.

Journal Specifics: A journal will be used by students to record ideas for projects, notes on how to approach or resolve a project, sketches, general thoughts about projects. The journal will be a place to include found images that intrigue you—your own or those you find in newspapers, magazines and photocopied from books. The journal is a workbook for art and photo ideas in development. The journal will also be used as a place to write down thoughts about exhibits we see, articles I assign or questions of a somewhat philosophical nature that we will discuss in class.

Course-specific Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all classes, including days to be spent working in lab. Attendance during group critiques is essential as the responses and reactions of students can be a great help and asset.

Grading Scale, General Attendance, Make-Up, Academic Integrity and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies:

Students are required to abide by HISA's Academic and other policies first introduced and explained at the school and class orientation. See the attached policy sheet.

Art Supplies/Materials: Students will be expected to bring any cameras they may wish to use--traditional or digital, or both. It is highly recommended for traditional film-based cameras that students have a camera that allows for manual adjustment of shutter speeds and apertures.

Students may expect to shoot perhaps fifteen to twenty rolls of 36 exposure rolls of film. They are responsible for purchasing their own materials. All necessary materials can be found locally. Unless you are set on a particular film I would suggest a 400 ASA film to start (for black-and-white film, use one of the following: Kodak Tri-X or Ilford HP5).

Reference Materials:

“Darkroom Dynamics” Jim Stone, N.T.B.

“Portraits” Angus Mc Bean, NPG

“¾ Of a Second” Elliot Erwitt, Magnum

“On Photography” Susan Sontag

“The Art of Travel” Alain De Botton, Pantheon

Videos & photographs by: William Klein, Moholy-Nagy Laszlo, Enri Canaj, Garry Winogrand, Maria Kappatou, Paul Strand, Shoji Ueda, Josef Koudelka