

Black & White Photography Course Syllabus

Course Information

ARTS 3371.001 Black & White Photography, Fall 2011
MONDAY 1–3:45 AS 1.105 (Media Room)

Professor Contact Information

Diane McGurren, 972.883.2292, mcgurren@utdallas.edu, AS 2.112
Office hours: MONDAY 4:00 – 5. *Please make appointment to insure that I am not meeting with another student or still working in the darkroom.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Prior completion of lower level studio arts course is required (ARTS 1301 does not satisfy this requirement)

Course Description

In this 35mm black and white photography course, students will investigate how a sequence or series of photographs builds meaning. Common examples in everyday life, such as comics, the advertising product catalog, photomontage, and the photo essay, all utilize more than one image to communicate an idea or message. Similarly, the photographer locates correspondences among individual frames exposed in succession when shooting roll film. By moving from an emphasis on the single photograph to a combination of images, different methods for printing and for image presentation, including mounting, bookmaking and sculpture/installation, can be explored.

This course combines an investigation of the process of black and white photography with a study of serial imagery. Operation of the camera involves an awareness of its mechanical limitations in order to facilitate the recording of light and fosters an understanding of optics. Students will learn camera operation for proper film exposure and darkroom techniques for film development and print enlargement. Assigned reading and class discussion will address contemporary issues in art and photography.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will interpret photographic concepts and apply photographic methods to create artworks, with an emphasis on black and white processes. They will assess and evaluate the creative work of their peers through both written and verbal critique. Students will discuss and write about both historical and contemporary examples of visual art, and they will choose and develop a proposal for an individual photography portfolio, which they will create.

Required Texts

Charlotte Cotton, *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*, 2nd Ed.
UTD Handbook for Photography (eLearning)

Resources for photography students are posted at:

<http://www.utdallas.edu/~waligore/utdphoto>

User ID: photo2010

Password: shutter

**opening PDFs works best with Explorer or Firefox. Use current version of Acrobat to view them. Low cost Microsoft Office software is available from the campus bookstore.

Materials & Supplies

**Each student should have an automatic (with manual override) or manual 35mm camera. Costs for the course will vary somewhat depending upon the scope of individual student projects.

Supplies estimate: \$200.00 to include photographic film and paper, developing tank and reels. A supply list will also be distributed in class. Photography chemicals are provided. Students with questions regarding cameras and supplies are encouraged to contact the instructor and refer to information reviewed and distributed in class.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

August 29	Introduction to Course, Materials, Camera, Darkroom Lighting Demo
September 5	Labor Day – No Class
September 12	Discussion: Cotton, Intro Bring Camera and Manual In-class shoot Aperture, shutter speed, depth of field Introduce Assignment #1 Diptych
September 19	Quiz #1 – Camera operation Introduction to film development Bring at least one roll of exposed film, tank, reels, towel, negative preservers, scissors
September 26	Quiz #2 – Film Development Introduction to printing and enlarging Darkroom Work Session: contact sheets Bring negatives in preservers, towel, notebook, photo paper
<i>September 29 – October 2 SPE Regional Conference, San Antonio</i>	
October 3	Quiz #3 – Printing and the Darkroom Student presentation and discussion: Cotton, Chapters 1& 3 Introduce Assignment # 2: Photograph as Document Open Darkroom Work Session
October 10	Critique Assignment #1: Diptych DUE: Two photographs (each in an edition of three prints) three contact sheets (not negs)

	Introduce Final Project
October 17	Student presentation and discussion: Cotton, Chapters 4 & 6 Open Darkroom Work Session
October 24	Critique Assignment #2: Photograph as Document DUE: Three photographs (each in an edition of three prints) three contact sheets (not negs)
October 31	Midterm review of final project with instructor Bring negatives and prints for review Submit proposal via eLearning mail <i>prior</i> to class Open Darkroom Work Session
November 7	Student presentation and discussion: Cotton, Chapters 2 & 7 Intro Assignment # 3: Constructed Realities Open Darkroom Work Session
November 14	Open Darkroom Work Session Bring supplies for developing and/or printing
November 21	Critique Assignment #3: Constructed Realities DUE: two prints (each in an edition of three prints) three contact sheets (not negs)
November 28	Student presentation and discussion: Cotton, Chapters 5 & 8 Open Darkroom Work Session Presentation techniques
December 5	Final critique DUE: Final portfolio 10 prints on 8x10 fiber-based paper 10 contact sheets of new work (no negs) artist's statement (via eLearning)

Grading Policy

Course evaluation will be based on attendance and participation, mid-term reviews, assignments and final portfolio, all of which is designed to encourage experimentation with the photographic processes and working with serial imagery.

Attendance and participation: 10%

—Active participation in critique, discussion, and during studio work days.
—Preparation for class, including having necessary materials needed for developing or printing and for critique (please only turn in dry, flat prints on fiber based paper for critique). Also:

Presentation of chapter from Cotton text—each student will sign up for and give a brief (5-7 min) overview to begin class discussions and participate in other students' discussions by generating topics of interest from respective chapters

—Effectively cleaning up the darkroom after class meetings and work sessions outside of class, including proper disposal or recycling of chemistry

Quizzes: 10%

There will be three introductory quizzes which will combine for 10% of final grade

Mid-term Review: 10%

Review of individual progress toward the creation of a final portfolio.

—Each student will submit a **1 page proposal** for final project (via eLearning mail)

—review of negatives with instructor (minimum of 5 contact sheets) and sample prints from work completed during the first half of the semester

Assignments (10% each): 30%

A total of three assignments will provide a general framework for exploring issues in photography, camera operation, and darkroom techniques.

Final portfolio: 40%

The final portfolio will be based on a topic or theme selected by the student and approved by the instructor. It will consist of a series of **10 images** printed on fiber based paper, with at least **10 contact sheets** (not negatives). A one-page **artist's statement** will accompany the work (via eLearning mail) and will include a discussion of the student's working process and reflection on the appropriateness of the working method to the student's concept.

Grading Criteria for Creative Work

1. **Concept:** what's the idea? Does it solve the problem posed in the assignment?
2. **Relationship between content and form:** how does the idea for the image influence the selection of the image's content and process of execution?
3. **Experimentation:** has this image been seen before? What risks with materials, conventions, content, design, or execution have been taken?
4. **Presentation:** given the limitation of the workshops, what kind of effort, care, and attention has been devoted to the creation of the images?

Course & Instructor Policies

Photography Technical Assistant: Carlo Zinzi

carlo.zinzi@utdallas.edu

office: AS 2.112 / 972-883-2292

Tuesday: 9-7; Thursday: 9-4; Friday 9-12

Black & White Photography is a practice-based studio course. During specific course periods when studio work is scheduled, students should be prepared to shoot, process and print negatives, or review images with instructor. Attendance at critiques is comparable to exams in lecture courses and integral to the student's development. The assignments are designed to assess the student's ability to apply principles discussed in class and to observe the student's improvement over time. Late assignments will be down-graded one whole letter grade. Work submitted more than two weeks past the deadline will not be accepted.

This class will emphasize film-based image capture, or shooting. **Therefore, it should go without saying, do not use web downloads, scans from magazines, clip art, or clip photography for your assignments. Work created with such images will not be accepted for evaluation.**

Attendance is required. The final grade for class participation will be lowered due to absenteeism. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive and should be avoided. Students who are absent from class when assignments are introduced need to check with other students regarding the parameters of the exercise. The instructor will only clarify specific points. Students will need to work outside of class in order to complete assignments in a timely manner. **Work submitted for evaluation must be generated by the individual student and must be the product of the current semester and class.** Any student with a severe illness or other problems that hinder productivity and attendance must contact the instructor at mcgurren@utdallas.edu. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a written medical excuse and to submit it to the instructor if absences are due to medical problems. Students with special needs that relate to physical challenges should consult with the instructor as early as possible in the semester.

Proper academic conduct during class is expected. Students are responsible for maintaining a cooperative learning environment. Do not work on projects for other classes, check email, text, or answer cell phones during class. Listening to music is acceptable during open studio time.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Students are encouraged to coordinate amongst themselves regarding travel to off-campus sites for gallery visits or shooting sessions. A form must be filled out by each student and submitted in advance of the trip. This form will be distributed during class.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary

action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes “fair use” under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution’s copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester’s course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student’s responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of “F” in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university’s *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)
disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.