

# ***Black & White Photography: Experimental Darkroom Course Syllabus***

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## **Course Information**

**ARTS 3371.002 Black & White Photography: Experimental Darkroom  
FALL 2018  
THURSDAY 1 – 3:45 ATC 2.908 (3.904)**

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## **Professor Contact Information**

**Dr. Diane Durant** [durant@utdallas.edu](mailto:durant@utdallas.edu)  
**Office: ATC 4.905 Office Hours: THURSDAY 12 pm – 1 pm. \*Or by appointment.**

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## **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)

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## **Course Description**

In this darkroom based course, students will experiment with alternative printing techniques and the construction of handmade negatives, from photograms and scanograms to cliché verre and Sabattier prints. Students will gain experience working in a darkroom setting and with light sensitive papers while exploring cameraless image-making. Emphasis will also be placed on the application of design elements to create unique images and developing a final portfolio based on a single concept or technique. A 35mm SLR camera is not required. Assigned reading and class discussion will address contemporary issues in art and photography.

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## **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will interpret photographic concepts and apply photographic methods to create artworks, with an emphasis on darkroom 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.

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## **Required Texts**

UTD Handbook for Photography (eLearning)

Resources for photography students are posted at:

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

<http://www.utdallas.edu/~durant>

## **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: \$150.00 to include photographic paper and various materials that can be purchased or found, like old negatives and transparency film. Developing tank and reels are optional as students are not required to generate new negatives. A supply list will also be distributed in class. Photography chemicals are provided. Students with questions regarding supplies are encouraged to contact the instructor and refer to information reviewed and distributed in class.

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## Assignments & Academic Calendar

August 23	Introduction to Course, Materials, Darkroom
August 30	Darkroom Science and Safety Introduce Project #1: Photograms
September 6	<b>Quiz #1 – Darkroom Science</b> Introduction to printing and enlarging <b>Bring materials of various transparency</b>
September 13	<b>Quiz #2 – Printing and Enlarging</b> Darkroom work session <b>Bring materials of various transparencies</b>
September 20	<b>Critique Project #1: Photograms</b>
September 27	<b>Student presentation and discussion: 1-4</b> Introduce Project #2: New Negatives Darkroom work session // construction, collage, cliché verre
October 4	OPEN STUDIO WORK DAY // MAKE NEW NEGATIVES
October 11	Digital Negatives // Scanning and File Prep for Digital Printing Meet in Digital Lab, 3.904
October 18	Artist Lecture // Ashley Whitt <b>Critique Project #2: New Negatives</b>
October 25	Introduce project #3: Happenstance and Happy Accidents Darkroom work session // chemigrams, lumen prints
November 1	<b>Student presentation and discussion: 5-8</b> Darkroom work session // substrates and surfaces
November 8	<b>Student presentation and discussion: 9-12</b> Darkroom work session // multiple exposures, multiple enlargers
November 15	<b>Critique Project #3:</b> Happenstance and Happy Accidents Discussion of Final Project ideas
November 22	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS <i>Submit Final Project Proposal via eLearning</i>

November 29                    **Student presentation and discussion: 13-16**  
Presentation techniques // matting, book arts, portfolio boxes

**Fall Fest: November 30 – December 14**

*SP/N Gallery*

*Reception: Friday, November 30, 6:30 – 8:30*

December 6                    **Show & Tell** of Final Project

December 13                   **Critique Final Project** // Quiz #3

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**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).

—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 quizzes, the total points of which will constitute 10% of final grade.

**Presentation: 10%**

A list will be provided from which students will choose an artist whose work and process are relevant to the course topic. They will give a 10-15 minute presentation on the artist as outlined in the assignment sheet.

**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: 30%**

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 or other material as approved. Participation in and preparedness for Show & Tell will also be included in grade evaluation.

**Artist's Statement: 10%**

A one-page **artist's statement** will accompany the work (via eLearning) 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?
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## Course & Instructor Policies

For technical assistance or to check out equipment:

Monday: 2 – 4 pm

Wednesday: 12 – 2pm

Thursday: 11am – 1pm

Black & White Photography is a practice-based studio course. During specific course periods when studio work is scheduled, students should be prepared to create, 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.

**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 [durant@utdallas.edu](mailto:durant@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.

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## UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*