

Art 281 Darkroom Photography

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 - 3:25pm Taylor Hall: 016 (classroom) & 008 (darkroom)

Priscilla
pasmith@udel.edu

Smith

Description: This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of photography from a film/ darkroom perspective. Students will learn historic and scientific basis of photography, the operations of the 35mm camera, film processing, how to make black and white prints in a darkroom, and image manipulation techniques. Most importantly, this is an art studio class; evaluations of projects will consider creative expression, composition/ design, investment of time, and technical concerns.

Course Outcome:

- Recognize and describe a variety of photographic processes from historic precedents to the present.
- Understand the chemical components and properties of silver-based light-sensitive materials.
- Apply the basic tools and techniques to effectively develop and print black and white film.
- Research and present historic and contemporary photographers to identify relationship between student work and technology, community, and contemporary art practices.
- Explore manipulation of the image through investigations of print and film.
- Recognize and use key vocabulary, concepts, and techniques, to discuss readings and critique student work orally and/or in writing.
- Create a portfolio of black and white photographs that demonstrate awareness of craft and development of personal vision.

Fee process for students: Materials: The consumable fee is \$55 to cover darkroom expenses. Students need to go to the website, www.udel.edu/artconsumables, and select the course(s) they need to pay a fee for, add to shopping cart and/or proceed to checkout. At this time only checks are being accepted as a payment method. Students will need to have their Bank account number, account type (i.e., checking, savings) and the Routing Transit number for their bank. A receipt will be emailed directly to the Art Department.

Supplies for the class are listed separately in resources; these should cost around \$200.

Students should have access to a 35mm film camera with manual functions and a working light meter. If you have to purchase a camera for this class, first consider how much you will use it beyond this semester.

Assignments	&	Grading:
50% of your grade will be determined by completion of studio projects: 10 points per project		
15%- Technical Exercises- essential	In-class skill building	exercises
15% - Participation-	attendance &	preparedness
10%- Photo quiz-	history &	technical information
10%-	Photographer	presentation

All studio projects will be presented in class for critique and evaluation. Attendance and participation to critique is mandatory. Work will be assessed on creativity, investment, craft/technical concerns, and understanding of concepts. Projects may be re-worked and resubmitted for a new evaluation during the semester. Late projects/projects without the author or projects presented after class has begun will have a one grade penalty. Participation and investment will be considered when a student has a borderline final grade.

Breakdown of grading :

A 100-92% A- 91-90% B+ 89-88% B 87-82% B- 81-80%
C+ 79-78% C 78-72% C- 71-70% D+ 69-68% D 67-62% D- 61-60%
F 59% and lower

Visual Projects will have description and example material posted online. Each week will begin with a review of that material. There will be five Visual Projects:

- Themed Photogram
- Photo Literacy
- Poetics of Light
- Elements of Identity
- Series and Sequence

Open Lab Hours:

Will be posted on the studio door after the first week of classes.

Attendance:

Mandatory attendance. Students will sign-in on a class roll sheet. Late arrivals count as an absence. More than three absences result in a one letter grade reduction. Emergency absences and Official University of Delaware Activities are excused if a notification is provided and arrangements made to complete the work in a timely manner. Attendance is strongly encouraged for announced visiting artists

Materials :

The consumable fee is \$55.00. The fee provides all film chemistry and print chemistry for students. A supply list for other materials is provided to students. Local sources will be discussed in class. Students who choose not to pay the consumable fee must supply personal darkroom chemistry in appropriate containers. The typical cost to buy this chemistry as an individual is approximately \$130. 00.

Safety:

Technical, procedural and safety demonstrations are given as students are required to use different tools and techniques. Students must attend these demonstrations, follow darkroom and studio rules and follow best-practice safety procedures. No food, drink, or animals are allowed in the lab.

Assessment:

- 1) Artist Presentation:
- 2) Visual Projects are assessed with a rubric comprised of a grade scale evaluating:
 - Craft
 - Creativity
 - Investment
 - Critical Awareness

SUPPLIES

Recommended Text: Buy used on Amazon, etc.

Art and Fear : Recommended For all Art majors

Photography (eighth edition) London, Stone, Upton: Recommended for all Career Photographers

- Manually controllable 35mm camera (aperture and shutter speed must be controllable)
- Standard 50mm lens or variable focal length lens
- Camera Manual
- Splash Glasses
- Hand towel - for wiping wet hands and cleaning enlarger station.

- Photo Paper: Three to four packs of 8x10 photographic printing paper (25 sheet pack).
Purchase one pack at this time. You will be introduced to other papers and films as the semester progresses. This paper will be: RC (resin coated) Variable contrast or Multi grade, Luster, pearl or semi-matte surface
- Film: 36-exposure black and white film-Kodak's T-Max 100, T-Max 400, Tri-X (Do not buy black & white film that says "Process Anywhere", "CN Film" or "C41 Process" as it cannot be processed with black & white film chemicals.)
- Film Cleaner: This can be a can of compressed air or a negative cleaning cloth
- 3-Ring Binder
- Scissors
- Negative preserver sleeves
- Suitable clothing: some of the photo chemicals will cause a brown stain. Old clothes or an apron.
- Mount boards 11x14 - white
- Ruler
- X-acto knife
- Presentation Folder for Final Portfolio
- Floral Wire
- Spot-toning brush

OPTIONAL & OTHER HELPFUL ITEMS

- Tripod
- Cable Release
- Flash unit