

Fundamentals of Photography (Digital)

Art 120

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This is an introduction to photography as an art medium. We will be working with digital capture, the computer as a darkroom, scanning, and ink-jet printing. This is a studio art class that has a technical lab component. You will also be introduced to film, film and paper chemistry, enlargers, and traditional darkroom techniques.

The text for the course is **Photography** by Barbara and John Upton. You are responsible for taking notes during the lectures and there will be a technical exam later in the semester.

Only students who are currently enrolled or have paid a lab fee after completing Art 120 with a B or higher may use the darkrooms. It is important to schedule your time ahead. **NO SMOKING, EATING, DRINKING, CHEWING GUM** in the wet darkrooms. No food or drink, in the computer lab. You may leave these outside the lab for breaks. No smoking is allowed in the building. In bad weather stand outside the loading door. This is a safety requirement demanded by OSHA and will be strictly enforced. You are your own janitors. Please throw away trash and return items to their proper location...i.e.if you borrow a filter from another kit, please return it to the original kit. We will have an assistant for the term that will check supplies. Take good notes on procedures and do not waste inks and other materials. You will learn to dilute chemicals and stock trays for your own use as well as cleaning up after. Supplies required for the course are available at our bookstore or you may buy them at Campus Camera in Kent, Dodd's in Cleveland or other camera or computer stores. Be sure and read labels carefully if you don't use our bookstore. Many camera stores carry limited silver materials now that digital photography has become mainstream. Be sure and call them in advance or pre-order.

Digital supplies

2 1 Gig flashdrives (for moving files to print and handing in work in progress)

Epson paper (legal size) Lustre recommended vs Glossy or Watercolor. 30 + sheets.

CDs for storage of files or external harddrive.

Film component: 2 rolls Tr-X, 2 negative preservers, one package RC paper, and tools...see below.(you can borrow film camera)

Silver supplies

Negative preservers (11 sheets) for silver

Resin-coated multi-grade glossy paper, 8X10 sold in 25 or 100 sheet packages

Fiber base multi-grade glossy double-weight paper (25 sheets)

10 rolls 35 mm film. Two rolls Tri-X 400 (Kodak) Other types: Agfa Pan 100;

Plus X 125 (Kodak) are recommended.

You will also need tools for the darkroom and loading room: scissors,

masking tape, bottle opener, rubber gloves, towel, apron, corked-back steel ruler, opaque cardboard, wire. Optional: spotting brush, loupe

Digital or Silver Presentation materials:

Manila folder for handing in assignments

Scissors, exacto knife, utility knife

Paper portfolio

Dry mounting tissue

Mounting board (bright white, 4 ply thickness) to be discussed in class.

You will also need to rent a locker for \$1.00 for the term.

Locks are the property of the department; we keep a record of your combination.

Optional: tripod, flash, cable release, filters for your camera.

Seven assignments with deadlines will be given over the twelve weeks.

For each assignment you will submit three unmounted prints with a contact print of your negatives or digital files. After critique you will select one and the contact sheet to be graded. Both need to be signed on the back of the print in pencil. Masking tape allows you to write in pencil on the plastic back. You will print from approximately three negatives for each critique. You have one grace period. After that, you will be dropped 1/3 letter grade for each day late for the next assignments. A similar policy applies to attendance. You will not be penalized for up to three absences. After that however, for whatever reason, you will be dropped 1/3 a letter grade for every class missed. You are responsible to obtain information or training missed from other students in the class. Borrowed equipment will be assessed a \$5.00 late fee for every day late.

Your final portfolio will consist of ten drymounted prints, 10 contact sheets for silver and equivalent numbers of small print-outs, 360 total for digital, or digital contact sheets, or CD/DVD with what you have shot in a portfolio enclosure, all signed by you. Prints and contact prints must be signed in pencil. I expect the highest level of integrity and honesty from every student; anything less compromises yourself, the course, and the institution.

You will be graded on technical skill, aesthetic and formal qualities of the work, participation, meeting deadlines, attendance, and presentation of the final portfolio. 60% assignments and participation, 10% exam, 30% final portfolio. Absences (over three) will be taken off the final score.

Goals and Objectives:

You will learn to use your cameras, develop negatives or import digital files into the computer. You will either print silver or edit digital images on the computer and create ink-jet prints. Dry mounting a portfolio is required. Through the assignments, you will explore composition, depth-of-field, figure-ground relationships, movement, lighting, and how to create meaning in your work through deliberate choice and creation of metaphor. You will learn both the technical aspects of photography as well as the aesthetic. You are evaluated on your success technically as well as creative solutions and imagery. You are

also asked to work in a disciplined manner, meeting deadlines, and attending class regularly, as well as participating in the class shoot and critiques. The technical exam is given in order to gauge retention and understanding of technical issues. Your assignments and portfolio also train you to edit your work and to create professional looking prints and presentation.