Course Description

ART 217 - Introduction to Photography is a three-credit course designed as an introduction to analogue (film) photographic materials, history, and techniques. This class includes hands-on practice with 35 mm film cameras and traditional and experimental darkroom techniques, while providing an introduction to photography as a fine art medium. Students will learn basic camera operation and darkroom printing as methods of exploring and expressing ideas. An introduction to historical and contemporary work and concepts in photography will complement and inform these pursuits.

Film is special. No matter how old or cynical you are, printing in the darkroom feels like magic. In an age of widespread digital photography, the opportunity to make photographs in this more tactile way offers students something exciting and new. This is primarily a hands-on course. Most assignments will be studio-based, shooting assignments, which will require time spent outside of class to complete. We will learn actively in this class - by DOING and MAKING. We will also spend time analyzing photographs, critiquing each others’ work, and discussing relevant readings/films as a group. These activities require the active participation of every student. We learn more when everyone’s ideas are shared.

A. Program Learning Outcomes:
   • Undergraduate students will demonstrate proficiency in studio foundation skills as they relate to the elements and principles of design.
   • Undergraduate students will exhibit a high level of proficiency in the use of materials, techniques and media.
   • Undergraduate students will demonstrate understanding of contemporary art issues through exploration of synthesis of content, problem solving and creativity.
   • Undergraduate students will define and state knowledge of Art Historical precedents.

B. Student Learning Outcomes:
   • Students will show their competence darkroom techniques by producing high quality work.
   • Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate design principles with the constraints of the photographic format.
   • Students will be able to explain the importance of photography in today’s visual culture and art-making.
   • Students will explain their work to their classmates and other viewers, demonstrating their comprehension of both formal and conceptual artistic concerns.

Course Objectives

• Students will learn about photographic seeing, including framing, composition, light and shadow.
• Students will become familiar with their film camera’s manual controls.
• Students will learn how technical aspects of photography, such as shutter speed and aperture, affect the aesthetic qualities of an image.
• Students will learn how to mix photographic chemistry and to develop B&W film.
• Students will learn basic and advanced B&W printing techniques, including burning and dodging, and split filter printing.
• Students will experiment with creative darkroom techniques including photograms/chemigrams, the Sabatier effect, and selective development.
• Students will learn about historical and contemporary photographic work and concepts.
• Students will learn about and practice interpretation and analysis of photographs.
• Students will engage in constructive critiques that focus on technical, aesthetic and conceptual aspects of their work.
• Students will actively participate in discussions relating to assigned readings/films.

Required Supplies and Equipment
• CAMERA with LENS: A 35mm SLR (single lens reflex) camera with a built in light meter and manual aperture and manual shutter functions or one with manual override. Automatic “point and shoot” cameras are not acceptable. A 50mm lens is considered “normal”, but any lens is acceptable for use in this class. Cameras are available for checkout if you are not able to provide one.
• FILM: There are a variety of good B&W films available. For your first few assignments, please come to class with 2 rolls of 36-exposure Ilford FP-4 film, ASA 125. Later on, you may choose to use a different film if you wish.
• NEGATIVE SLEEVES & PRINT SLEEVES: Buy a package of acetate negative sleeves for 35-mm film and a 3 ring binder in which to put the negative sleeves and contact sheets.
• B&W DARKROOM PAPER (DON’T OPEN BOX IN DAYLIGHT!): Start with 1 box, 8x10", 50 sheets Resin Coated Ilford Multigrade IV, pearl surface. You will need more for class, but this will get you started.
• 1 can of compressed air or Anti static cloth or brush
• Sharpie
• 1/2 sheet 32”x40” 4-ply white Museum Board (share a full sheet with one other person)

Recommended Supplies and Equipment
• A Short Course in Photography (eighth edition) by Barbara London and Jim Stone
• Loupe (optional)
• Tripod

Where to Buy Supplies
ONLINE: (Plan ahead for shipping times and register as a student for discounts and specials)
  - B&H Photo  www.bhphotovideo.com/edu
  - Adorama  www.adorama.com/
  - Freestyle Photo  http://www.freestylephoto.biz

Classroom Behavior Policy
Discussions in critique and of historical and contemporary artwork may involve challenging and sensitive topics including identity, race, religion, and sexuality. Students are expected to maintain a mature and respectful attitude toward their peers and the instructor. Any student who behaves in a way that intimidates or disrespects others will be asked to leave the room and may be referred to university judicial affairs.

Attendance and Participation
Students are expected to attend all classes. Class time cannot be made up. Demonstrations, discussions, presentations and other group activities only take place during class time and are not repeated for those absent. Lateness to or early departure from class will count as a half absence. Only students who attend every class will receive a perfect score for attendance. Students are expected to participate actively in class, speak up in critiques and discussions, ask questions, and demonstrate engagement in the subject. It
is the student’s responsibility to read the schedule and to prepare for class each day by completing assignments and readings on time.

**Class absences are not to exceed 6 contact hours in a studio class without consequence. A student will not receive credit for any studio class when missing 18 contact hours or more (this includes excused and unexcused absences).**

Photo Area Attendance Policy:
Class attendance is mandatory; punctuality is expected. Attendance is taken in the first 10 minutes of class; if you are not present, you are marked tardy. If you do not arrive after another 10 minutes, you are absent. Three unexcused absences will result in a final letter grade of no greater than a C. Two tardies/early departures equal one unexcused absence. Excused/unexcused absences will be determined by the professor. Absence during a critique, failure to turn in a project during a critique, or missed quizzes will result in an automatic F for that project. Late projects will not be accepted. Students are responsible for making up missed work.

All absences should be prearranged. Please let me know when you have an unusual circumstance when you cannot attend. Some of you will prefer to do the bulk of your work at home or at another location. This does not excuse you from meeting with the class. Your participation in the group is important, and good communication with me helps me help you accomplish what you need to do.

**Academic Integrity**
I expect the highest standards of integrity from students in my class. Students are expected to do their own academic work. This is particularly important in student presentations. We will discuss how to properly cite ideas and quotations from sources, as well as how to reword an idea in your own language. Any student involved in cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Grading scale:**

- 90 - 100 A
- 80 - 89 B
- 70 - 79 C
- 60 - 69 D
- 59 > F

Excessive absences (more than 3) will reduce your final grade. All absences must be pre-arranged.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments turned in up to one week after posted due dates will automatically lose one letter grade. Assignments turned in more than one week after due date will not be accepted.
REDOING ASSIGNMENTS: Students may reshoot or reprint an assignment if they are dissatisfied with the work that they present in critique. Late assignments may not be redone. Any assignments that a student chooses to resubmit are due no later than May 5.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Evaluation criteria</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio assignments</td>
<td>technical, conceptual and aesthetic qualities, effort and risk taking</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographer Presentation</td>
<td>research, content and delivery</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Exam</td>
<td>accuracy</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>attendance, critique participation, reading discussions, preparation for class</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>written proposal work prints &amp; contact sheets final prints - technical, conceptual and aesthetic qualities</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Mobile Device Policy**

When class is in session, students are expected to be engaged in learning, note taking, critique or discussion – not using mobile phones, tablets, or other portable devices for recreation. Using devices in class for any purpose other than note taking is distracting to other students and the instructor. **Students using devices for any purposes other than those related to class will be asked to leave and will lose participation points in their final grade.**

**Harassment and Discrimination**

As an instructor, one of my priorities is to help create a safe learning environment. If you experience harassment or discrimination that makes you feel unsafe or that interferes with your ability to learn, please feel welcome to talk to me. As a faculty member, I have a legal responsibility to share any information regarding sexual misconduct or about crimes that may have occurred on Truman’s campus with the University’s Title IX compliance officer, who will refer affected students to appropriate counseling and support services. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting University Counseling Services at 660-785-4014 (660-665-5621 for after-hours crisis counseling.)

**Instructor Contact information:**

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