

Introduction to the Photographic Process
Art/Com 236
Spring 2006

Instructor contact information

Heidi Goldberg

Olin 106

Office Hours: MW 11-12 and by appointment

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<http://www.cord.edu/faculty/goldberg/>

Course Description and Goals

This course is an introductory studio course in traditional black and white film photography as an art form and as a communicative medium. Students will be learning basic skills, processes, and terminology of photography. Images will be captured primarily with 35mm film cameras that students must supply.

Students will take images for a variety of assignments with the goal of acquiring skills in taking and printing photographs. We will be dealing with composition, design and aesthetics (in relationship to content), operation of the camera, manipulating shutter speed and f-stop, processing, using an enlarger, and presentation of the print. Students will develop film and prints in the darkroom. The purpose of all this is that we weave together mastery of technique with authentic expression and effective visual communication.

Photography will be explored as a unique medium for creative expression, and as a format/technique for possible applications in fine art photography, photojournalism, photo-advertising, photography for the web, and illustration. Connections to movements in traditional photography, the historical development of photography as an artist's medium, and its relationship to new media will be explored through videos, museum/gallery visits, lectures, readings, and discussions. Assignments will consist of readings (followed by quizzes), tutorials, and a number of formal photographic assignments.

During this semester, the format of the course will involve a combination of:

- In class work (apx. 5 hours/week)
- Out of class work (up to 10 hours/week)
- Video/Slide presentations
- Demonstrations
- Topic discussions relating to assignments
- Exhibition, gallery, and museum visits
- Critiques (group)
- Individual critiques at mid-semester, and as needed
- Written assignments
- Quizzes

Learner Outcomes

After taking the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and work with the features of a 35 mm camera.
- Apply the principles of art and design to the composition of photographic imagery. This includes conscious decision-making about the use of the elements of line, shape, color, texture, value, color, and the principles of balance, unity, rhythm, emphasis, and scale/proportion.
- Understand the relationship of historic to contemporary techniques and applications in photography.
- Utilize essential processing techniques in the darkroom studio in order to achieve specific creative goals.
- Relate the development of one's work and life (as an artist or other profession) to the medium.

Requirements and evaluation for grading

Attendance is mandatory. Absence beyond three class periods, as well as tardiness, will negatively affect grades. Each absence beyond three will drop the final grade one letter grade. Absence over six class periods will result in course failure. If absence is unavoidable, a written excuse must be made available to me. Tardiness will be understood as either being 15 minutes late for class, or leaving 15 minutes early. Three tardies equals one absence.

Formal evaluation of student work will be at mid-semester, and again at the end of the semester. We'll look at finished work and work in progress. Assignments will be graded individually on their due dates, and returned the following class period. Late assignments will negatively affect grades. Late assignments will be graded as follows: each class period beyond the due date will drop the grade by one letter. Exceptions will be made for those with excused absences. Students should be prepared to work on images during scheduled class times. Students' reconsideration of graded work in order to improve grades and facility is encouraged. Participation in critiques and discussions is strongly encouraged and will affect grades. Tutorial assignments and quizzes will be given and graded. Final portfolios will include formal projects and other assignments.

Evaluation will include:

70% Portfolio

10% Quizzes (quizzes may not be made up)

10% Class Participation/Attendance

10% Individual Effort and Improvement

Projects will be graded by the following criteria:

A=Excellent. The assignment is very well executed and exceeds requirements, content is very clear, thoughtful, and original, design/composition is very sophisticated, and craftsmanship is excellent.

B=Good. Requirements of the assignment are followed quite closely, content is strong and communicates well, originality is strong and composition/design is well resolved.

C=Average. Requirements of the assignment are followed fairly well, content comes across but is not very well articulated, originality in design is not strong, design and craftsmanship is fair or partially developed.

D=Below Average. Requirements of the assignment are not followed well, there are problems establishing and communicating intentions, design shortfalls, sloppy craftsmanship and poor presentation are evident.

F=Fail. Student does not follow requirements of the assignment, has major problems establishing and communicating intentions, has major design shortfalls, very poor presentation and lack of craftsmanship.

In accordance with the policy on academic integrity at Concordia College, we will be addressing issues of appropriation, plagiarism, falsification, and others that enter into the world of art and academia. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be by the hand and mind of the registered student in question.

My office hours are as listed above and by appointment. If you need to see me, stop in or schedule an appointment before or after class. I may also be reached via e-mail, I check my account regularly.

Timeline

Following is a list of class projects and a tentative outline of our semester: changes to this schedule will be announced in class. Each of these assignments will be completed within a two-week timeframe. In conjunction with these projects we'll be working through chapters 1-12 in the textbook. Some of the finished projects will be presented matted or by some other formal means (we'll discuss alternatives) for critique and portfolio.

1. Self Portrait
2. News Feature
3. Illusion and Reality
4. Illustration for a Magazine
5. Public Service Advertisement
6. Contemporary Still Life
7. Action Reaction

Materials List/Resources

35mm camera which has manual settings for aperture and shutter speed.

Text: "Black and White Photography; A Basic Manual" 3rd ed, revised. By Henry Horenstein. www.bw-photography.net/

Photo Kit (to be purchased through the department at a cost of \$xx.)
The kit will include; Printing Paper

Notebook

Matboard/foamcore

Double sided tape and masking tape
Gum eraser
Cork backed metal ruler
scissors

Websites;

Adobe; www.adobe.com
The American Museum of Photography; www.photographymuseum.com/
Camera Obscura; <http://brightbytes.com/cosite/what.html>
The Daguerreian Society; www.daguerre.org/home.html
Center for Creative Photography; www.ccp.arizona.edu/ccp.html
Eastman Kodak web site; www.kodak.com
George Eastman House; www.eastmanhouse.org/
Grove Art Online; www.groveart.com
Minnesota Center for Photography; www.mncp.org/
The Museum of Contemporary Photography; www.mocp.org/
National Association of Photoshop Professional (NAPP); www.photoshopuser.com
National Geographic; www.nationalgeographic.com
PDN Online (Photo District News) www.pdnonline.com/photodistrictnews/index.jsp
Planet Photoshop; www.planetphotoshop.com
Susan Ressler's, "Women Artists of the American West"; www.sla.purdue.edu/waaw
Wayne Fulton's Scanning Tips; www.scantips.com

Art/Com 236 Introduction to the Photographic Process, Spring 2006 H. Goldberg

Name _____

I.D # _____

Address _____ Phone _____

e-mail Address _____

website _____

Year in School _____

Major/Minor _____

What classes are you taking this semester?

What is your photographic/studio art and art history experience? When? Where? Instructor(s)?

Other exciting information (favorite things, books read recently, movies you've seen recently, travels)?

What are your expectations for this course?

What do you think are the benefits of working with photography to make visual statements?

Part of my professional practice is to document my student's finest works. At the end of the semester when I grade final portfolios I photograph the strongest pieces to keep in my collection, to show to future students, and to potentially post on my website to represent work well done. Please sign below if I have your permission to photograph and publish one or more of your works on my webpage. If you wish that your work will not be published it certainly will not be held against you! Thanks.
