

ART 225 Beginning Photography

Fall 2006, MW 9:00 - 11:50pm
Room 208 and lab

Michael Sherwin

Email: sherwinm@cwu.edu

Phone: 963-1295

Office Hours: MW 4-5pm or by appt.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce basic black and white photographic processes, techniques and concepts while emphasizing creative possibilities and critical awareness of the medium as a fine art. Each student will learn basic 35mm camera operations, how to properly expose and process film, become comfortable printing in the darkroom, and learn how to present finished work in a professional manner. This course will encourage photography that lends itself to "fine art" while not excluding different categories of photography, but recognizing their relevance to the medium as a creative and self-expressive tool. We will make images that demonstrate the limitation and possibilities of the medium and work to place those images in social, political, and art historical contexts.

Student Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of control in photography: camera, film, composition and control of light.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the technical aspects and use of darkroom equipment.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyze and critique photographs and photography as an art.
- Demonstrate an ability to execute and present your work in such a way that yields successful communicative results.

Required Text:

Black and White Photography, A Basic Manual, by Henry Horenstein

Grading:

Attendance/Class Participation	10%
Quiz	10%
Assignments	40%
Final Portfolio	40%

Attendance: Attendance for this class is mandatory and essential for learning and understanding the techniques introduced throughout the course. *THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF YOUR GRADE BY ONE LETTER.* Please alert me in advance of any circumstance that may result in your absence.

Class Participation: Your contribution to this class involves attendance, participation in class discussion, and completion of projects and written assignments. Work must be completed and brought to class on time. *WORK THAT IS ONE DAY LATE WILL BE DEDUCTED ONE LETTER GRADE.* Students who wish to improve their grade on assignments, which were submitted on time, may redo the work and resubmit it by the end of the term. Your participation in critiques is absolutely essential in facilitating a constructive environment for yourself and your classmates.

Quiz: There will be one quiz given during the term. The quiz is designed to allow you to articulate your understanding of the technical and conceptual skills you will be learning throughout this course.

Assignments: There will be 3 technical/conceptual assignments given throughout the term a short book presentation, and a short paper. The book presentation will require you to choose an artist's book from the library and present it to the class. The paper will be 2-3 pages in length and will accompany your artist presentation. It will provide you with a framework for investigating a contemporary photographer who has struck your interest. All together, these will comprise of 40% of your final grade. These assignments are meant to be open to interpretation.

However, there are specific considerations for each, which I will explain in detail as they approach. Slides and detailed discussion of each project will be presented the day they are assigned to help you get started. Your work will be critiqued and assessed according to its creative value as well as technical strength. In other words, aesthetic concerns, content, and individual creativity in using the black and white process will be as important as your knowledge of its mechanics.

Final Portfolio: This assignment will count as 40% of your final grade. We will discuss it in detail towards the end of the term. Briefly, it will comprise of 10-12 mounted and/or matted prints, spot-toned, if needed, and a written artist statement concerning your work. It is important for you to think of it in terms of a completed body of work, which communicates an idea or concept, rather than a technical exercise. You will have the opportunity to expand on previous assignments and bring them to a more finished and complete investigation.

Supplies:

- Manual 35mm camera (instruction manual if possible)
- Film: Kodak T-Max 100 or 400 ASA, or Ilford films of similar ASA (might use up to 10 rolls). Please note that 100 ASA film will yield finer grain when enlarged, but 400 ASA can be used with less light.
- Paper: Ilford Multigrade IV, 8x10" fiber based (FB) paper in gloss, semi-matte or matte surface (box of 100 sheets or package of 25), Ilford Multigrade IV 8x10" resin-coated (RC) paper (package of 25 sheets).
- Other supplies needed: Plastic negative sleeves (*Print File 7* across, 5 down), gray card, combination lock for locker, scissors, fine-pointed Sharpie marker, masking tape, three ring binder or folder to store negatives and contact sheets, 8x10" or larger storage box for turning finished prints in.
- Suggested supplies: apron, hand towel, anti-static brush or compressed air.
- You may also expect added expenses for supplies and mounting or presentation materials. On average the materials for this course can range between \$150-250.

**WHERE TO GET:* Gordon McDonald's Photo Imaging on 206 E. 4th Avenue in downtown Ellensburg has prepared a starter kit for this class, or mail order at: www.calumetphoto.com, www.bhphotovideo.com, or www.freestylephoto.biz

Notes: This course will require work outside of designated class time. The lab is open seven days a week with many late night hours to accommodate your schedules. You are required to assist in the maintenance of the facility. You must clean up after yourself - this is not the lab assistant's job. Every piece of equipment provided for you to use must be treated as if it were your own. Any rough handling of this equipment will not be tolerated. You are sharing the facility with approximately 70 other students, therefore the more friendly and conscientious you are will make the lab that much more pleasant and efficient. Your use of the facility must not disadvantage or interfere with any other student enrolled in a photo course.

Please also note that items in the gang B&W lab or classroom are not to be removed (because obviously, then the other beginning students won't be able to use them). If you need some item, please let Stephen "photo-assistant-extraordinaire" Ellis or I know what you and your classmates need, and we will find or order it for you.

Safety: The photo lab is a chemical lab. As such, safe handling of the chemistry is required at all times. No part of your body should ever come in contact with the chemicals. You should use tongs or gloves (preferably nitrile) at all times. The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are available in the red binder in the lab for the chemistry recommended and provided by the department. I strongly recommend reading this information. If you chose to purchase chemistry other than that which is recommended, you must be in possession of the MSDS for these chemicals, which are available from the chemistry supplier.

**If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course please make arrangements to meet with me concerning your needs by the end of the first week of classes.*

***The schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of circumstances beyond the instructor's control.*