

Black and White III
Fall 2016
Sue Abramson
Tuesday 6-9

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Recommended Texts - *Photographic Possibilities*, Robert Hirsch. And *Photography*, Barbara London and John Upton The library has several copies of *Photography*. If you don't own the Hirsch book you can get a used copy online. These books are best for students working in the darkroom.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course the main objective will be to visually explore one subject represented in a series of twenty photographs. Students are expected to shoot a minimum of seven sessions in order to successfully complete this project. The work in progress will be critiqued regularly during class time. The rest of the class sessions will be conducted as workshops where the instructor will review exposure and development, explore advanced printing techniques, digital Black and white printing and mural printing.

TA SESSIONS AND LAB TIME:

In addition to class time, all students have access to teaching assistants who conduct equipment sessions for access to large format ink-jet printers and medium format cameras. They also work 20 hours a week in the labs to assist students who are working on projects. The TA schedule for each semester is posted on the bulletin boards in the main hall on the first floor.

ABSENCES:

If a student misses a class it is their responsibility to contact the instructor. If a student has three unexcused absences (a doctor's note is required for an excused absence) during the semester, their final grade will be lowered a full letter grade.

MAKE UP WORK:

Work missed or not turned in during class time due to an absence must be completed and turned in during the next class session. Any work turned in late will drop a full letter grade.

PLAGIARISM:

All work completed for this class must be the student's own. Cheating on an exam, turning in the same assignment for more than one class, or turning in a plagiarized assignment will result in a grade of "0" for that assignment. A second incidence will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Week I August 30

Lecture - An introduction to the class, the syllabus, materials, and assignments. We will cover the main objectives of the class. There will be a slide lecture showing examples of successful photographic series created by contemporary artists.

Discussion - Process as a means to expression. The class will analyze the work of several artists and determine the methods used to specifically create the body of work. There will also be a discussion to see how much of the class is working digitally and how many students are interested in darkroom work.

Assignment 1 - Study the photography monographs, photographic magazines in the Pittsburgh Filmmakers' library and artist portfolios online **photoeye.com** is a good place to start. Choose a photographer whose work relates to the type of work you would like to create in this class. Make a series of five photographs inspired by your photographer. Prepare a power point presentation on your artist, including good examples of their work and information on their life, career and subject matter of their work. Also include several of their portfolios so the class can understand the depth of their career.

Review chapters 16 & 17 in *Photography* and 1 in *Possibilities*.

Bring recent work to class for review. 3-5 prints

Week II September 6

Review - Looking at student work (include negatives if applicable). Reviewing camera exposure, pushing and pulling film and printing techniques.

Demonstration & Lab – The class will also go into the darkroom to review the equipment, accessories, advanced printing techniques such as printing with multiple filters or graded papers, paper processing, chemicals, printing on large paper, toning prints and intensifying negatives.

Assignment – Keep working on your first assignment. Review chapters 5, 6 & 7 in *Photography*. **Bring your first assignment negatives or digital files to the next class and be prepared to print during class.**

Week III September 13

Lecture – Digital Black and White Printing

Demonstration – Using the large format digital printers.

Lab – The class will have time to print their first assignment.

Assignment – Finish printing for next week's critique.

Week IV – September 20

Critique & Presentations – Five Prints that are derivative of another artist's work and presentations on your artist.

Assignment - Start shooting your project. These first images should be a fairly straight reading of the subject, try to be objective, factual, and descriptive. Make five images for the next critique. Take one of the five images and print it three other ways. Use different sizes, toning, different photographic papers or other methods. **One print must be around 16" x 20", another print must be 11 x 14 or 13 x 19** Bring these 8 prints to the next critique.

Week V – September 27

Presentations Continued

Discussion – Size Matters - How to present your work, what is the best size for your image, the best paper and tone?

Assignment – Continue Shooting. Read Chapter 8 in Possibilities.

Week VI – October 4

Lecture – Large & Medium format photography. There will be a slide lecture showing portfolios of contemporary artists who use large format cameras and medium format cameras for their personal work.

Demonstration - Using the Hasselblad and Mamiya cameras. Using a hand held light meter. Using the Imacon to scan film.

Lab – Students not interested in medium format demos can print for next week's crit.

Assignment – Work on prints for the next critique.

Week VII - October 11

Critique– Eight Prints. The class will discuss the form, content and presentation of each other's work. We will try to determine the correct size, paper and toning methods for each person's project.

Assignment – Keep shooting, learn from the critique session, approach your subject a different style. Try to establish your point of view and portray specific ideas about your subject. Shoot one roll with the medium format cameras. Six finished prints are due Week 10. These prints must be perfect fiber prints.

Week VIII - October 18

Lecture – Conceptual imagery in photography

Discussion – Writing a short statement and proposal for your personal project. Write a first draft of your project statement; include your subject, your personal point of view, camera format, film choice and paper choice. Due during the next critique.

Assignment – Keep working on new images for your project. Read Chapter 12 in Possibilities and chapters 10 & 11 in Photography. **Choose a few negatives for the mural printing session; be sure to pick an image that looks good large!**

Week IX - October 25

Lecture - Presenting and finishing your portfolio.

Lab – The class will print for next week's critique or work on digital images.

Assignment – Finish prints for next week's critique. Continue reviewing the digital reading assignments. Finish a first draft statement about work and bring to the next class.

Week X – November 1

Critique – Five Prints. (Optional - A minimum of one medium format image). The class will present their artist statements and critique each other's work. There will be a heavier emphasis on print quality during this critique session in order to prepare for the final portfolio.

Assignment - Keep shooting and printing,
Sign up for mural printing times.

Week XI - November 8

Mural Printing Lab – The class will each get a turn to make one mural size digital print. Arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled session and be ready to print.

Lab – When not printing your mural you may work in the lab.

Assignment – Finish and bring to class **five prints** for next week's critique. **Also bring in all your previous finished prints for next week's critiquing, editing and sequencing session.**

Week XII - November 15

Critique – Five Prints. The class will critique each other's work. Editing and sequencing and presenting will be large part of the class discussion. **We will view all of the student's images during this session; this includes work from the previous critique.**

No class Thursday November 22, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week XIII – November 29

Lab - The labs will be reserved for class.

Assignment – Finish printing for next week's final critique. (Ten prints must be matted if printed small.) **Five of the 20 prints must be new!** The other 15 can be images turned in during the three previous critiques. Bring in the final version of your artist's statement.

Week XIV – December 6

Final Critique – Bring 20 finished prints to class. Edit out the best 10 and put them in mats if printed small. All final prints must be printed on good paper. Sequence the work and turn it in with your finalized artist statement.

Materials

Film and paper to complete your first assignment and individual projects,

www.freestylephoto.biz

Freestyle is a great resource for photo paper

Note:

This syllabus may change. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor if you have missed a class or any announcements.