DIGITAL AND DARKROOM IMAGING EC.305
Ground Rules and Logistics

Sept. 8, 2011

GRADING: Pass-D-Fail for upperclassmen, P-NR for freshmen. There is no final examination nor do we presently plan any quizzes. Grades will be based on completion of homework, completion of your best series of three black & white gelatin-silver prints and completion and presentation of your term project.

We shall expect each student to carry out a term project. The suggested nature of this project is as follows.

Part A: Imaging and Chemical Darkroom

1. Each student should photograph a series of B&W images using Ilford HP-5 film. You should experiment. Shoot several rolls of film. If you have a digital camera, repeat the shoot using the digital camera. This will give you a basis for comparisons.

Select a theme for your series; we encourage you to relate it to experiments you are doing at the Institute. The film negatives should then be developed in the Edgerton film darkroom. 8 inch by 10 inch prints from these negatives should be made using the Edgerton print darkroom.

2. Once you have made your darkroom prints the film should be scanned to produce digital files which you will bring into Photoshop. After enhancement using Photoshop, digital B&W prints should be made for comparison with your conventional prints.

3. Students are expected to supply their own film and photo paper.

Part B: Idea or Descriptive Sequence

We ask that each student prepare an idea or descriptive sequence in three to five images. These three 8" by 10" B&W prints should be done using your best talents in the print darkroom to make them truly good prints. **This print series is due 12/1.**

Once you have done the initial work using chemical darkroom and conventional camera you may continue working using digital cameras instead of scanning your film images. We do, however, insist that you demonstrate a basic facility in classical photography.

Part C: Color Film

You should also take at least one roll of pictures using color print film. You will need to buy the film and have it developed commercially.

From these, you should pick the best images to scan. These you can further compare to your digital prints.

The digital color printers we currently have available at the Center are the Epson Stylus 7800 ink jet printer, and, the Kodak 1400 dye sub printer. Because of printing expense please be selective in your use of the printers.

Part D: Final Project

The final project will consist of at least one digital image composed in Photoshop from various components along with a write-up of the project. You should prepare the final project for presentation, for posting on our bulletin board, and also for posting on our Web page.

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TEXT

There is no required text for this course.

For learning Photoshop there are many Photoshop tutorial sites online on the web. Adobe has a very strong tutorial site.

On Barton you will find a number of Adobe Photoshop CS5 ebooks. I expect you to use this in referencing methods for working with and understanding Photoshop.

You will also need to purchase a USB memory stick to transport your image files between machines. These are readily available at MicroCenter on Memorial Drive.

GRADING

Grading will be based primarily on the project and completion of your b&w sequence prints. Cooperation among students is encouraged. Those with special skills in photography, darkroom work, or digital imaging are asked to pair up with other students who may need extra help. Final images, however, should result from individual efforts.

LOGISTICS

Lectures are in Room 4-402 in the Edgerton Center. The darkroom is immediately adjacent. The photo studio and digital imaging lab is in 4-035. Please do not share the access codes with anyone outside our seminar group.

Image storage and file transfer:

Image file space is limited by your Athena quota. Image files can become quite large. You should always save your files to a memory stick or portable hard drive.

Cameras

You will need access to a film camera and a digital camera.
If you do not have a 35mm or other larger camera, you have several options:

a) Team up with a class member who does.

b) If you buy a 35 mm camera, we suggest you avoid fully automatic point and shoot models. You will need aperture and speed control. Do not buy a throw-away - you will need the camera throughout the term. **Do not buy an Advanced Photo System (APS) camera or film.** The film is only 60% of the size of 35 mm film and will not work in any of our scanners or enlargers.

Some suggestions:

-a used Pentax K1000 35 mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) or equivalent. Very rugged and reliable. Priced just a bit more than the plastic automatic referred to below. Other older cameras of equivalent price and make are: Ricoh KR5-3 and Yashica FX3 Super 2000.

-a new Vivitar V3800N Camera Kit which includes a standard Pentax K mount 50mm Vivitar lens, will take double exposures, and, has a mechanical metal shutter. A great little body; you might want to replace the lens with Pentax K mount lens at some point. Available from Calumet Photographic for $199.99. B&H Photovideo sells this camera for $199.95/$229.95 with a zoom lens.

- a used Canon Rebel EOS K2, Canon Rebel EOS T2, or a Canon Rebel G.

-get a new Holga 120N point-and-shoot camera for $29.99 and show us how well you can do with it. This is minimal, but one student produced some very respectable results with it. We do have two Holgas available for class use.

-a used medium format 6x6 camera and a light meter.

-if you are still stuck, see us about a loaner. We have two pinhole cameras, several 35mm cameras, the Holga, and, one digital camera for student use at the Edgerton Center.

If you own a digital camera you are encouraged to use it. All students are, however, required to learn the fundamentals of conventional photography.

A detailed classroom schedule is provided separately. If all else fails come to Room 4-402 where class location will be posted if there is a sudden change.

Instructor:
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