I. Catalog Information

PHTG 1 Basic Photography 3 Unit(s)

Advisory: English Writing 200 and Reading 200 (or Language Arts 200), or English as a Second Language 261, 262 and 263; Mathematics 210 or equivalent.

Two hours lecture, three hours laboratory.

Introduction to black and white photography. Overview of the 35mm single lens reflex camera operating system. Basic understanding of film processing, printing and finishing. Development of critical thinking skills to analyze historical, cultural, conceptual, and practical aspects of a medium used worldwide. Preparatory for further work in photography including digital imaging.

II. Course Objectives

A. Define the nature and application of photography as a unique medium.

B. Differentiate between major types of cameras and demonstrate how the 35mm camera's controls are used.

C. Process black and white 35mm film, make contact prints, and enlarged prints.

D. Explore how photography has evolved to its present form through a worldwide perspective.

E. Create and conceptualize images using 35mm techniques and practices.

F. Compare and contrast traditional photographic methods with new digital methods.

G. Critique and analyze a variety of photographic master works to develop, refine and understand a diverse and multicultural community

H. Critique classmate's work to understand the visual and communicative value of the medium

III. Essential Student Materials

- 35mm camera
- 6 - 8 rolls of black and white film
- One (100 sheet) box of RC photographic paper
- Other materials as required (negative sleeves, envelopes, misc. items)

IV. Essential College Facilities

- Classroom and a darkroom equipped for black and white film processing, printing and finishing.

V. Expanded Description: Content and Form

A. Define the nature and application of photography as a unique medium.

1. Characteristics of the black and white photographic image
   a. Light
   b. Continuous tone
   c. Space
   d. Time

2. Application of a unique medium
   a. As a fine art
   b. As commercial work
   c. As documentation or replication
   d. "The snapshot" as a genre

B. Differentiate between major types of cameras and demonstrate how the 35mm camera's controls are used.
1. Camera types
   a. 35mm format
   b. Medium format
   c. Large format
   d. Digital

2. Basic SLR camera controls
   a. Body
   b. Lens
   c. Viewfinder
   d. Film advance
   e. Film plane
   f. Shutter
   g. Aperture
   h. Focusing

C. Process black and white 35mm film, make contact prints, and enlarged prints.
   1. Film processing
   2. Contact prints
   3. Enlarged prints
   4. Print finishing

D. Explore how photography has evolved to its present form through a worldwide perspective.
   1. A brief history of worldwide developments of the medium in 19th, 20th and the 21st centuries such as: the invention of photography, camera and film technology including new digital imaging, photography used in the other arts, documentary, and commercial work.
   2. Introduce diverse photographic artists and imagery such as:
      b. Issues of gender (Claude Cahun, Arthur Tress, Duane Michals, Robert Mapplethorpe, Yasumasa Morimura, Katherine Opie, Nan Goldin)
      c. Digital (Andres Gursky, Pedro Meyer, Loretta Lux)

E. Create and conceptualize images using 35mm techniques and practices.
   1. Fine art approach to photography
   2. Commercial approach
   3. Documentary
   4. Digital

F. Compare and contrast traditional photographic methods with new digital methods.
   1. Physical similarities and differences
      a. Body
      b. Viewing
      c. Formats
   2. Image storage
      a. Film vs. the sensor
      b. Processing and printing
      c. Wet vs. dry darkroom

G. Critique and analyze a variety of photographic master works to develop, refine and understand a diverse and multicultural community
1. Presentation of imagery created with basic black and white techniques
2. Preconceptions about what makes a good image
3. Description, evaluation and interpretation of imagery
4. Examination of and sensitivity to diverse photographic expressions

H. Critique classmate's work to understand the visual and communicative value of the medium
   1. Presentation of classmate's work
   2. Description, evaluation and interpretation of class imagery
   3. Examination of and sensitivity to the individual's self-expression

VI. Assignments
   A. Reading from assigned chapters of textbook
   B. A written, one-page critique of an assigned gallery or museum exhibition
   C. Bi-weekly photographic exercises that demonstrate and understanding and application of class concepts, and culminates in the completion of 4 - 8 finished, black and white prints by the end of the quarter.

VII. Methods of Instruction
   A. Lecture and visual aids
      Discussion of assigned reading
      Discussion and problem solving performed in class
      Quiz and examination review performed in class
      Homework and extended projects
      Field observation and field trips
      Lab activity and evaluation

VIII. Methods of Evaluating Objectives
   A. Submission of print assignments
   B. One, one-hour mid-quarter examination: multiple choice, true and false, and short answer
   C. Final exam: oral and visual presentation of final print assignment
   D. Traditional, multiple choice exam at instructor's discretion

IX. Texts and Supporting References
   A. Examples of Primary Texts and References
   B. Examples of Supporting Texts and References
      1. Other suitable text at the instructor's discretion