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ART 215A.02: Photography I

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ART 215-02: PHOTOGRAPHY I**Professor: ELIZABETH DOVE****Tue/Thu 4:10-6pm, Autumn 2007****Office: Fine Arts 412, Phone (406) 243-4673, elizabeth.dove@umontana.edu****Office Hours Thu. 12-2, and by appointment**

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**Description**

This course offers an introduction to basic photography techniques and aesthetic issues. Demonstrations are scheduled every week for most of the semester, and are supplemented by additional impromptu demonstrations as specific student needs arise. *Class attendance is therefore vital.* As the semester progresses, students should gain awareness of the creative and expressive possibilities of photography, and begin to develop a personal vocabulary of photographic aesthetics.

We will start the course with fairly simple tasks about how to manipulate your camera (how light effects exposure, the principles of aperture and shutter speed, how to make manual equivalent exposures on a 35mm camera) and the processes in the darkroom (how to process black and white film, what is a 'good' negative, how to process black and white paper enlargements and contact sheets), and gradually progress into more complex aspects of technique and visual design. The progression will be the result of experimentation and practice. Progression is the key point, as long as you are advancing technically and aesthetically you will have some freedom within the scope of the coursework and objectives.

Coursework

Specific projects will be detailed on a weekly basis; the attached calendar for Art 215 will give an idea of the pacing and project expectations. The writing of an Artist Statement will complement each student's individual portfolio. Projects cannot be completed satisfactorily during classtime alone. You should probably plan to spend at least **five hours outside of class time** working on assignments each week. Individual and group critiques will coincide with the completion of assigned projects. Students are required to evaluate their photographs, communicate verbally about their reasons for making their art, and understand criticism given by others.

To be successful in this class, each student must:

- Attend and participate in all scheduled classes.
- Actively participate in critiques (sitting silent and still is not participation).
- Complete all assignments on time, including the final portfolio.
- Keep notes on technical information.
- *Help to maintain a safe, clean and organized photographic lab that every student can use.*

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three unexcused absences your grade will drop by one letter grade per absence, up to six absences when a failing grade is issued automatically. Come to class ready to work, students are not to leave class to purchase supplies. Demonstrations missed will not be repeated for the absent student. The absent student must obtain the notes from another student on the missed demonstrations.

Safety

The darkroom contains hazardous materials. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be read prior to using hazardous materials. All safe-handling procedures for both materials and equipment must be strictly followed. There is no eating in the darkroom, and drinks must be in covered containers. No animals or children allowed in studios during class time or open studio times—they will be asked to leave. Darkroom is for students registered in photography the current semester only, as course fees purchase certain supplies. Building hours are 7am-11pm Mon-Sun.

Evaluation

Mid-term evaluation will be **Tuesday, October 16**, where a written self-evaluation summarizing work and isolating strengths and weaknesses will be submitted by each student. Final evaluation is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 4** and consists of a review of all of the assigned projects, participation in the student-led critique of the final projects, and participation in the final studio clean-up. *The last day of scheduled class time will include a mandatory darkroom and photo-lab clean-up, you are required to attend to pass this course.* A grade will be assigned after all aspects of this final evaluation are complete. Projects and art work must be picked up by Finals Week, anything left after that time will be discarded. Projects may not be left in the Art Office.

Grading

Simply showing up and completing all assignments does not equal an "A". However, if you attend class, complete all projects on time, actively participate in critiques and discussions, ask questions, take notes, show care towards the darkroom/photo-lab and the artists working within it, and demonstrate motivation, technical growth and aesthetic development - you will succeed in Photography I. Three factors will be considered in the determination of grades. Most projects will receive individual grades calculated on a numeric scale, with these general guidelines in mind:

1) **Adherence to Project Guidelines: 33%** Completed on time, addressed project's learning objectives, active participation in critique, effective use of classtime, correct print size and number of images and assigned techniques, etc.

2) **Craftsmanship: 33%** The quality of the product, including technical comprehension, compositional effectiveness, sensitivity to materials, care in presentation

3) **Concept: 34%** Including selecting appropriate techniques and approaches to support idea, inventiveness, developing concept in relation to the project guidelines. Idea is not lost.

A = Excellence in all assignments, highly motivated, extremely innovative solutions to projects

B = Above average in all work, demonstrated technical growth and visual maturity

C = Completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation

D = Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation

F = Incompletes on many projects, poor class participation, several unexcused absences

Incompletes

It is the student's responsibility to complete the coursework within the semester the class is offered. Not finishing the required work within the allotted time frame *does not* entitle a student to an incomplete. Incompletes will only be given in cases of extreme emergency.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor in the beginning of the semester.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321. Work created for another class may NOT be used for Art 215, and a failing grade for the project will be assigned.

NASAD Re-Accreditation

The Department of Art is pursuing re-accreditation through the North American Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) during the 2007-08 academic year. It will be necessary to retain and display student work for the evaluators visit in March, 2008. As a student, your work may be part of this initiative.