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Fall 9-1-2021

### ARTZ 284A.01: Photography I - Technologies and Processes

Matthew Michael Hamon

*University of Montana, Missoula*, [matthew.hamon@umontana.edu](mailto:matthew.hamon@umontana.edu)

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#### Recommended Citation

Hamon, Matthew Michael, "ARTZ 284A.01: Photography I - Technologies and Processes" (2021).

*University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 12495.

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## **ARTZ 284a; Photo-I**

### **Course Syllabus**

*instructor:* **Matt Hamon**

*office hours:* **M 12:10 – 2:00 pm, and by appointment**

*email:* [matthew.hamon@umontana.edu](mailto:matthew.hamon@umontana.edu)

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The University of Montana occupies the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispell people. We honor the path they have always showed us in caring for this place for generations to come.

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### **Meetings:**

**TU/TH, 1:00pm – 2:50pm**

**Classroom: FA-210, 211, and 415**

### **Course Description and Objectives:**

This 3 credit course offers an introduction to basic photography techniques and aesthetic issues from camera operation, approaches to various subjects and situations, post production editing and conceptual aspects of the medium. In addition, the class will introduce a variety of historical and contemporary photographers as well as issues and theories within photography. The student will strive to bring technical control into accord with artistic vision. It should be noted that this photography course is a fine-art course: it does not address itself to vocational skills and results... *Individual creativity, visual problem solving and precise craftsmanship will be stressed.* Students should expect to gain an awareness of the expressive and creative possibilities of photography as well as developing a personal vocabulary utilizing the photographic medium.

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to: Understand the basic technical aspects of digital photography involving camera operation, and exposure control, selecting appropriate f-stops and shutter speeds for different picture taking problems, interpret in-camera reflected light meter readings, arrive at appropriate exposures in a variety of lighting situations, bracket exposures. Additionally, students will be able to critique the form and content of photographs in a class peer setting, state significant historical contributions and technical innovations pertinent to the development of photography, use photography as a medium of personal expression, and demonstrate the creative process through class discourse.

## **More Concisely**

There are four (5) primary aspects of this course:

1. Technique: Technical operation of a digital camera
2. Process: Best approaches to a variety of subjects and situations
3. Editing: Post production and image editing in software (Lightroom/Photoshop)
4. Content: Creative use of photography (history, concepts, and ideas relating to the photographic object and lens based images)
5. Image Output: Rendering images for web and print delivery

## **Projects**

Various assignments and exercises will be delivered throughout the semester. Exercises focus on technique over content, assignments require the application of refined technique to personal content. The total number of assignments will be based on the pace with which the group moves through the curriculum. Each assignment will be designed to address both technical and conceptual aspects of photography. We generally conclude the semester with a project that you design for yourself. It will be helpful to begin thinking about the project you will design early in the semester. Keep this in mind.

## **Grading**

You will be expected to attend all classes, complete all projects, and participate fully in class discussions. I have a very strict late policy, so make special note of the project due-.

Your overall grade will be based on a percentage of the total available points that you earn in addition to any bonus or penalty you receive based on attendance. Each project will include a rubric with pass/fail elements each worth one point each. While I do not assign traditional letter grades to the work you turn in, I will be frank with my assessment during critique. Additionally, I am available to discuss your work before and after critique if you have further questions.

Final Grading Scale:

93-100 A 90-92 A- 87-89 B+ 83-86 B 80-82 B- 77-79 C+ 73-76 C 70-72 C- 60-69 D <60 F

## **Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation is essential to academic success. Therefore, I include attendance and participation in my grading. Missing class will cause you to quickly fall behind on the techniques and concepts. I see participation in class discussions and critiques as providing the wonderful benefit of peer-to-peer learning.

**Texts:**

There are no required texts for this course. If you are the type of person who would benefit from a technical manual of photography throughout the semester, please see me. I have several I can loan you.

Other readings may be provided during the semester, including handouts, on-line readings, or downloadable/emailed PDFs via the course Moodle site.

### **How to be successful in this course:**

The way to earn an “A” in this class is to arrive at class on time with an open mind, participate in the dialogue,

complete assignments on time, and make contributions to the learning community.

You can guarantee yourself the grade of “A” in this course if you do the following; attend and participate in all scheduled classes, actively participate in critiques, complete all assignments on time, keep notes on technical information, and help maintain a safe, clean, and organized photography lab.

Please silence your cell phone. No cell phone calls are to be taken or made during class. Reading your incoming text messages or responding to text messages during class is particularly rude and will result in zero credit for that class meeting. I understand that cell phones occasionally ring unexpectedly. In such cases, simply turn your phone off as discretely as possible, or leave the room for *emergency* calls.

### **Equipment & Supplies:**

#### **REQUIRED:**

Camera:

- A digital camera that allows for manual adjustment of shutter-speed and aperture. (This is a must, so don't even ask). DSLR or Mirrorless cameras are fine. Ideally, your camera will also allow you to shoot in the RAW file format. While a camera does represent a significant expense, it is an indispensable piece of equipment for all art majors and an obvious necessity to any photo enthusiast. Make the best investment you can afford at this time.
- A folder with pockets for turning in projects (contact sheets, etc.). This must be a flat folder (no 3-ring binders) that secures your work for transportation to and from school. The Itoyo folders in the bookstore are the best option. Note... I will not accept projects that are not packaged within a folder!
- Several 8.5 x 11 clear sleeves to protect finished prints
- ~~A box of 50 sheets of premium, Red River, 8.5 x 11 inkjet photo paper. You'll find the~~

~~best deals in the UM bookstore. The Red River papers are the only papers that we have custom profiles for in the FabLab. I will provide paper for you this semester.~~

## **RECOMMENDED:**

### **Storage:**

- A “thumb,” or “flash” drive with several Gigs of space for moving and transporting files
- Two SD memory cards for your camera
- Not required but recommended: An external USB drive of 250 Gigs or more
- Not required but recommended: A sturdy tripod and a long cable release or camera remote

### **It wouldn't hurt to have:**

- any version of Adobe Photoshop installed on your personal computer
- lens cleaning cloth or tissue
- black permanent ultra fine point—to write your name on the back of your prints

### **Paper & Output:**

Initially, you will be printing via external sources (Paw Print, Target, Walmart, Costco, or your personal inkjet printer). Later in the semester we will transition to utilizing printers in The School of Art, Fab-Lab. For the latter portion of the semester, you might choose to purchase personal paper stock in the surface and weight you desire. I recommend Red River ([redrivercatalog.com](http://redrivercatalog.com)) or Arista ([freestylephoto.biz](http://freestylephoto.biz)) as quality and affordable options available online.

### **Course text:**

In an effort to reduce student expenses, there is no required text for this course. Much of the technical

information I offer will be accompanied by handouts. Careful note taking will also aid in your understanding of the material. If you feel your learning style benefits most from access to a text book, please contact me... I do have some options for you to pursue.

### **Sources for output, equipment and materials:**

- The UM bookstore - reasonable selection and decent prices)

- [www.freestylephoto.biz](http://www.freestylephoto.biz) - awesome selection of Arista papers, great prices and quick delivery)
- [www.redriverpaper.com](http://www.redriverpaper.com) - excellent paper selection, affordable, quick delivery
- Paw Print (In the Mansfield Library) - quirky but affordable printing option. Don't wait to the last minute though!
- Target - great local source for quality prints, ICC profiles available for many locations
- Costco - local source for affordable, large prints and prints of coffee mugs • Walmart - the unmentionable store, but a decent source for prints
- Staples & Office Max - quick turnaround of affordable prints

### ***The Fine Print:***

#### **Email/ Cell Phone Policy**

You will benefit from regularly check your email account and the course Moodle site, as this is where outside-of-class updates and notices will be sent. I will email you via your official UM email account (If you generally use a different email account than your UM account, I recommend setting your UM email to forward to whichever email provider you prefer). You will be responsible for all information and updates pertaining to the class sent to you via email. I generally check my email 3 or more times per day, so this is also the best way to contact me.

If I see you texting during class, particularly when one of your classmates is asking or responding to a question, I will mark you absent. If I notice you texting during critique, I will make fun of you and mark you absent for the day. Or, you can accept the alternative punishment of bringing treats for the *entire* class during our next meeting.

#### **Students With Special Needs:**

It is not at all out of the ordinary for various students to have unique needs and learning styles. Students with disabilities or unique needs should meet with the instructor immediately. Though requirements for the course will not be adjusted for individual needs, I am happy to assist each individual in meeting the requirements for the course.

#### **COVID precautions:**

- Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. (Add specific information

about how you, as the instructor, will continue providing course materials to students in quarantine or isolation.)

- (If instructors are comfortable sharing or including this) UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.
- (If applicable) Mask use is required in vehicles when traveling to field sites as part of class/fieldwork.
- (If applicable) Please note this class is being recorded. Notifying students is a requirement if this is the case.

#### **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.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321).