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ARTZ 284A.01: Photo I - Techniques and Processes

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Recommended Citation

Krutek, Steven M., "ARTZ 284A.01: Photo I - Techniques and Processes" (2014). *Syllabi*. 1141.

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School of Art, University of Montana
ARTZ 284A 02, Photography I, Techniques and Processes, 3 credits
PREREQUISITES ARTZ 105A
M, W 10:10 AM – 12:00 PM
Fine Arts 414/415
January 27-May 16, 2014
Instructor: Steven Krutek
Office: Fine Arts 303
Office Hours: M W 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
steven.krutek@umontana.edu
Mailbox in art office-"Krutek"

Course Description and Objectives

This course offers an introduction to basic photography techniques and aesthetic issues. Scheduled demonstrations are integral to the course, and are supplemented by impromptu demonstrations based on student need. 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.

We will begin the course with tasks designed to give you a better understanding on how to manipulate your camera and the processes in the darkroom. Gradually, we will progress into the more complex aspects of technique and visual design. Progression is the operative word; if you focus on advancing technically and aesthetically (through practice, practice, practice) you will ultimately have greater freedoms with the assignments.

Coursework

You will find a detailed syllabus attached, which specifically lists the projects we will undertake. These projects, more than likely, cannot be completed in the allotted class time. You can expect to spend at least 5-7 hours outside of class a week, per **N.A.S.A.D.** guidelines, in order to satisfactorily complete the assignments. Individual and group critiques will coincide with the completion of the assignments. Students are required to constructively evaluate their own photographs, others' photographs, as well as understand/accept criticism given by others.

To be successful in this class, each student must:

- Attend and participate in all scheduled classes
- Actively participate in critiques
- Complete all assignments on time
- Keep notes on technical information
- Help maintain a safe, clean, and organized photography lab

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. After three unexcused absences your grade will be dropped 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; the absent student must obtain notes from another student.

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. **PLEASE CAREFULLY READ, SIGN, AND RETURN THE ATTACHED PHOTOGRAPHIC LAB/DARKROOM SAFETY CHECKLIST TO THE INSTRUCTOR.**

Grading

Three factors will be considered in the determining of grades.

1. Quality of the product---inventiveness, sensitivity to materials, technical understanding, compositional effectiveness, and idea development in relation to the assignment. **50%**
2. Quality of learning process---risks taken, range of ideas explored, contributions to class, attendance, effective use of time, enthusiasm, and amount of work done. **40%**
3. Professional demeanor in the darkroom/photo lab---clean work habits, proper treatment of equipment, attention to studio space, and participation in final darkroom/photo lab clean up. **10%**

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

B= Above average in all work, demonstrates technical growth and ability

C= Completion of all projects, satisfactory class participation---**for those students who are taking the class on a Credit/No Credit basis, they must, at the very least, meet the expectations of a "C"**.

D= Incompletes on some projects, inadequate class participation

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

EXTRA CREDIT IS NOT AVAILABLE

Incompletes

Incompletes for the course will only be given in cases of extreme emergency. It is the responsibility of the student to keep the instructor fully informed of such situations.

Students with Access/Special Needs

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Fine Arts Building Guidelines

1. Fine Arts Building hours are for currently enrolled students only; art studio use requires being currently registered in a specific studio course as course fees facilitate specific supplies. If not currently enrolled, students will be asked to leave.
Hours: 7 A.M. – 11 P.M., Monday – Sunday
2. No creatures or children not enrolled in courses allowed in studios during class time or open studio times – they will be asked to leave.
3. Studio clean-up is required.
4. Pick up all art work by the scheduled exam day or the last class period. This needs to happen or art work will be discarded. Please do not leave art work in the art office.

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/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.

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Syllabus

- Mon. Jan. 27 Introductions.
Course description, objectives, etc.
Supply list and supply price list.
Syllabus
Darkroom tour, etiquette, and safety.
Homework: Please bring your box of 100 sheets of photographic paper on Wed. 1/29.
- Wed. Jan. 29 **Due: Box of 100 sheets of photographic paper.**
Introduction to photograms through the work of Man Ray.
Demonstration on how to use the enlargers, paper processing, and photograms.
Please refer to the handouts on the aforementioned.
Homework: Create 5 8" X 10" photograms using objects collected at home and/or abroad. Due Wed. Feb. 5
- Mon. Feb. 3 **WORKDAY**
Homework: Please bring your fully manual 35mm camera and the instruction manual to class on Wed. Feb. 5
- Wed. Feb. 5 **Due: 5 8" x 10" photograms.**
Bring your fully manual 35mm camera and instruction manual.
Critique.
Discussion concerning basic camera operation, film types, and aperture/depth of field. ***Please refer to the Aperture handouts.***
Homework: Shoot a roll of Tri-X 400 for aperture/depth of field project. TAKE YOUR TIME AND WRITE DOWN ALL YOUR CAMERA SETTINGS FOR EACH SHOT! Acquire developing tank and reels. Due Mon. 2/10.
- Mon. Feb. 10 **Due: Roll of Tri-X 400 film for aperture/depth of field project. Bring developing tank and reels.**
Demonstration on film loading and processing. ***Please refer to the attached Handouts on Film Developing. These handouts also include information on film loading and troubleshooting.***
WORKDAY
Process Tri-X 400 film in class (Mon. and Wed.). ***Please refer to the Film Processing Instructions next to the film processing sink.***
Homework: Re-shoot and process a roll of Tri-X 400 film if your first roll was unsuccessful. Bring your 8" x 10' black and white paper to class. Due Wed.

2/19.

Wed. Feb. 12 **WORKDAY**

Mon. Feb. 17 **NO CLASS---PRESIDENTS' DAY**

Wed. Feb. 19 **Due: Processed Tri-X 400 film for aperture/depth of field project and 8" x 10" black and white paper.**
Demonstration on using the enlarger and black and white paper processing. ***Please refer to the handout on Paper processing.***
Demonstration on creating contact sheets and test strips. ***Please refer to the Making a Contact Sheet handout.***
Demonstration on enlarging a negative. ***Please refer to the Making an Enlargement handout, including troubleshooting information on black and white prints***
Homework:
3 5" x 7" RC prints (cut your 8" x 10" paper in half to obtain 2 5" x 7" pieces). from aperture/depth of field project negatives and an 8" x 10" RC contact sheet. Due Wed. 2/26.

Mon. Feb. 24 **WORKDAY**

Wed. Feb. 26 **Due: 3 5" x 7" RC prints from aperture/depth of field project and an 8" x 10" RC contact sheet.**
Review film processing and making an enlargement---any questions?
Critique aperture/depth of field prints, comparing them to the settings you wrote down while shooting.
Discuss shutter speed. ***Please refer to the attached Shutter Speed handout.***
Homework: Shoot a roll of Tri-X 400 film in accordance with the Shutter Speed handout and create 3 8" x 10" RC prints of a subject in motion. Due Mon. 3/10.

Mon. Mar. 3 **WORKDAY**

Wed. Mar. 5 **WORKDAY**

Mon. Mar. 10 **Due: 3 8" x 10" RC 'motion' prints**
Critique.
Slide presentation, which focuses on photographs that use light as a visual modifier.
Demonstration on using contrast filters.
Homework: Light as a Visual Modifier---Please refer to the Light as a Visual Modifier and How Does a Camera Meter for Light? handouts.
Shoot a roll of Tri-X 400 film and create 3 8" x 10" RC prints in accordance to The assignment portion of the Light as a Visual Modifier handout.
Contrast Filters---re-print your motion prints utilizing magenta and/or yellow contrast filters. Due Mon. 3/24.

Wed. Mar. 12 **WORKDAY---THIS DATE AND THE FOLLOWING TWO CLASS PERIODS MAY ALSO BE USED TO IMPROVE PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS THAT WERE NOT SO SUCCESSFUL.**

Mon. Mar. 17 **WORKDAY**

- Wed. Mar. 19 **WORKDAY**
- Mon. Mar. 24 **Due: 3 5" x 7" RC prints emphasizing light as a visual modifier
'Motion Re-prints' using magenta and/or yellow contrast filters.**
Critique.
Demonstration on burning and dodging. *Please refer to the attached
Improving Your Prints by Burning And Dodging handout.*
Demonstration on print-spotting. *Please take notes.*
- Wed. Mar. 26 Introduction to Depicting Personality through the Body assignment.
*Homework: Create 6 8" X 10" RC prints in accordance to the **Depicting
Personality through the Body** handout.*
2 contact sheets due: 4/9.
Project due: 4/16
- Mon. Mar. 31 **NO CLASS---SPRING BREAK**
- Wed. Apr. 2 **NO CLASS---SPRING BREAK**
- Mon. Apr. 7 **WORKDAY**
- Wed. Apr. 9 **Due: 2 contact sheets for Depicting Personality through the Body
assignment.**
Peer group discussions.
- Mon. Apr. 14 **WORKDAY**
- Wed. Apr. 16 **Due: 6 8" X 10" RC prints for Depicting Personality through the Body
assignment.**
Critique.
- Mon. Apr. 21 FINAL PROJECT INTRODUCTION.
*Homework: Shoot at least 2 rolls of Tri-X 400 film and create
contact sheets to present your concentration/final project.*
Demonstration on dry-mounting and simple book-binding.
- Edit images, on contact sheets, down to 10 by Mon. 4/28.**
FINAL PROJECT DUE ON 5/7.
- Wed. Apr. 23 **WORKDAY**
- Mon. Apr. 28 **Due: 10 images from at least 2 contact sheets in support of your final
project.**
Demonstration on sepia and tea-toning.
WORKDAY
- Wed. Apr. 30 **WORKDAY**
- Mon. May 5 **WORKDAY**
- Wed. May 7 **Due: Final Project --- 8 mounted prints (any size) in book format.**
Presentations and critique.

Fri. May 16

**DESIGNATED FINAL TIME, 10:10 AM – 12:10 PM
MANDATORY CLEAN-UP OF DARKROOM!**

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Supply List

35mm Camera that can be used in a fully manual mode

You will need the following (at the very least):

8 rolls of 35mm Kodak Tri-X 400 film---36 exposures

Box of 100 sheets of photographic paper, 8" x10" multi-graded, resin-coated (RC), Ilford Multicontrast (Glossy or Pearl) OR Kodak Polycontrast (E or F)

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL YOU GET INTO THE DARKROOM!

Patterson Super System 4 developing tank, reel, etc.

Print File brand plastic sleeves for 35mm negatives (8), 3-hole punched

Print File brand plastic sleeves for 5" x 7" print storage and contact sheets (8), 3-hole punched

Print File brand plastic sleeves for 8" x 10" print storage and contact sheets (8), 3-hole punched

3-ring binder, 2" for storage of notes, assignments, negatives, contact sheets, and prints

Spotting brush (000 point recommended)

Small plastic palette (a lid to a large plastic yogurt container will suffice)

Mounting adhesive sheets

#2 X-acto knife

Pair of scissors

Please be cognizant of the fact that you may have to purchase more materials than those listed if you are unhappy with your results and/or there are problems with processing and developing.

Suppliers:

University Center (U.C.) Bookstore 243-4921

The Darkroom 549-1070

Internet: Freestyle Photo, Calumet Photo, or B & H Photo

Steve Neal