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ARTZ 284A.02: Photo I - Techniques and Processes

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ARTZ 284A.02 PHOTOGRAPHY I

Professor: ELIZABETH DOVE

Tue/Thu 11:10-1pm, Spring 2014

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Office Hours Thu. 9-11, and by appointment

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to basic photography techniques and aesthetic issues. Students will create and analyze photos through hands-on darkroom work and projects, group critiques, writing artist statements, and examining photos from a variety of cultural, conceptual, and historical standpoints. 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.

Course Goals

- Create photos that are well-crafted, thoughtful and imaginative
- Understand the technical aspects of a camera, and how they affect your photograph
- Use your camera to translate ideas into compelling photographs using a range of approaches and techniques
- Develop the skills and vocabulary to create, analyze and evaluate photographs in individual and group discussions
- Learn about historical and contemporary uses of photography

Course Requirements

Demonstrations of new processes 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.* The amount of information presented this semester will not allow for mastery of every technique. Mastery is not an expectation. What is expected is that each student will attempt each process, and that these experiments demonstrate progress in both technical application and a growing awareness of photographic aesthetics. 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.

Specific projects will be detailed on a weekly basis, the attached calendar for ARTZ284 will give an idea of the pacing and project expectations. Projects will have both technical and conceptual aspects, with earlier projects having a heavier amount of technical awareness. Written artist statements will accompany some projects.

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. Work turned in for a grade in Art 284 must not be used for a grade in any other course in the current semester or any prior semester. 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.
- Complete all assignments on time.
- Keep notes on technical information.
- *Help to maintain a safe, clean and organized photographic lab that every student can use.*

Prerequisites

Visual Language: Drawing

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Attendance will be taken during the first 5 minutes of class, and students are expected to be present for the duration of the class. 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. Three lates equals one absence.

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. Absences from class has no effect on the due date for any assignment.

Safety

The darkroom contains hazardous materials and equipment. 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.

Any use of liquid solvents or spray paint/spray products of any kind must be done in designated areas and with proper ventilation.

No children or pets are allowed in the photographic classroom, darkroom or other Fine Arts Building studios. Darkroom is for students registered in photography this current semester only, as course fees purchase certain supplies. Building hours are 7 A.M.-11:00 P.M. daily, those working after hours should not work alone.

Access/Special Needs

Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor in the beginning of the semester. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

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. Work created for another class may NOT be used for Art 271, and a failing grade for the project will be assigned.

End of Semester Studio Cleaning

We will use our last meeting time during Finals Week for the final darkroom clean-up. *This clean up is mandatory. Missing this clean up will result in a drop of 10%, or one letter grade, to your total semester's grade.* Projects and materials must be picked up by the Monday after Finals Week as anything left after that time will be discarded. Projects may not be left in the Art Office.

Grading

If you attend class, complete all projects on time, actively participate in critiques and discussions, ask questions, take notes, show care towards the studio 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 size and number or prints, 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 materials 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

A Final Grade will be determined through the combination of individual grades for projects and artist statements, participation in critiques, discussions and clean up sessions, and attendance.

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.