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ARTZ 388.01: Alternative Process Photography

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ARTZ 388.01 ALTERNATIVE PROCESS PHOTO, 3 credits Professor: ELIZABETH DOVE
Tue/Thu 2:10-4:00, Spring 2016
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Office Hours Tue/Thu 1-2pm, and by appointment

Course Description

This course will take an advanced approach to photography techniques and aesthetic issues, focusing on historic processes and alternative approaches to photography. Students will create and analyze photographs through hands-on studio work and projects, group critiques, writing artist statements, and examining photos from a variety of cultural, conceptual, and historical standpoints. This course is more experimental in nature than Photo 1 or Photo 2 classes, and the expectations for image development and thematic content will be higher.

The ambition for this course is to introduce and expand technical skills, match them to content, and develop both verbal and visual criticism skills that will aid intermediate students in evaluating their work. Students should be able to surpass technical concerns so that their photographs will express their ideas rather than just being formal exercises. Students should be able to recognize the creative possibilities unique to these photographic processes and use these to realize their aesthetic goals.

Course Goals

- Create works that are well-crafted, thoughtful and imaginative
- Translate ideas into compelling photos using a range of historic and contemporary approaches and techniques
- Combine personal "image vocabulary" with various photographic processes to realize creative and conceptual goals
- Increase technical knowledge of photographic skills and processes
- Expand the skills and vocabulary to create, analyze and evaluate photos in individual and group discussions
- Learn about historical and contemporary uses of photography

Course Requirements

Demonstrations of new processes will be frequent throughout the semester. *Class attendance is therefore vital.* We will experiment with alternative processes including non-silver and historic emulsions such as cyanotype, van dyke and gum bichromate, and lith printing. We will explore pinhole cameras, wet-plate processes, and simple scanning and digital negative making.

A basic outline of the semester is presented on the separate calendar for Art 388. The pace of work will be faster than in an introductory course, projects will be running concurrently (time management!!), and expectations for the integration of content and meaning into each project are higher than in your earlier photography courses. Students should be prepared for this intensity.

Additionally, students are being provided greater access to the raw materials of photography (hand made pinhole cameras, hand coating liquid emulsions on a variety of papers, etc.) and working this way will require more patience, but is rewarded with much more freedom to personalize the materials to match your intentions and imagery.

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 388 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 art, 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 safe, clean and organized studios that every student can use.*

Prerequisites

ARTZ Photography 1 and ARTZ 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

Photography involves hazardous materials and equipment, and the alternative processes we will learn this semester are more hazardous than conventional silver gelatin work. Some chemicals are carcinogens (cause cancer). 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 printshop, 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 printshop or other Fine Arts Building studios. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE, i.e. - gloves and goggles) must be used at all times in accordance with the safety demonstrations. 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/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321. Work created for another class may NOT be used for Art 388, 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 studio clean-up. *This studio 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.

Evaluation

Final evaluation is scheduled for the week of **May 3**. *During the Finals week a mandatory clean-up of the darkrooms is scheduled. You are required to attend to pass this course.* A grade will be assigned after all aspects of this final evaluation are complete.

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 and the artists working within it, and demonstrate motivation, technical growth and aesthetic development - you will succeed in Alternative Process Photography. Three factors will be considered in the determination of grades.

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

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

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.