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ARTZ 384.01: Photo II - Darkroom/ Silver-based Photography

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ARTZ 384; Photo II, Spring 2015
(darkroom/silver-based photography)

instructor: **Matt Hamon**

office hours: **Tuesdays 9 -11am, and by appointment**

email: **matthew.hamon@umontana.edu**

phone: **360.789.9727** (*this is my personal number- please only use it for emergencies*)

Course Syllabus

Meetings: Monday, Wednesday 2:10 – 4:00pm

Classroom: FA-415

Prerequisite: ARTZ 284a (may be waived by the instructor)

Course Description and Objectives

(Note: This course description is based on Photo-II now being the first film/analog offering in our curriculum. Understandably, several of you will already have significant experience with film and darkroom. I plan to make the curriculum malleable so that more experienced students can be challenged.)

This course is designed to familiarize you with technical aspects and controls of a manual 35mm camera together with silver-based black & white film developing and printing methods. Once you have acquired these skills, you will learn to create photographic images that convey your own unique and artistic ideas. During this class, you will also develop a fundamental vocabulary and aesthetic sense for the constructive critique and appreciation of photography. By the end, you will be using your new camera skills and developing/printing techniques to generate a photographic portfolio piece of your own design. Additionally, you will learn basic darkroom techniques, management and chemical mixing procedures.

This course has a heavy workload as well as significant financial requirements. Expect to spend 8-10 hours of work outside of class time each week, so rethink taking this course if you have a busy schedule or little free time. Also, as photography is a very technical medium that depends on proper tools and supplies, which can cost a lot of money, *expect to spend at least \$300 on materials and supplies for the semester.* (And that does not include the cost of a camera, which you will need to purchase if you do not already have one or have access to borrowing one.) A poorly managed work schedule or lack of monetary funds is not an acceptable excuse for late or incomplete work during the course.

Projects

Various assignments will be delivered throughout the semester. 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-date.

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.

Whereas participation is a factored percentage of your overall grade, attendance has the ability to raise or lower your final grade from your calculated score. Poor attendance will result in a lowering of your overall grade, but I will also reward good attendance with bonus points, as follows:

- If you do not miss a single class during the entire semester I will increase your grade by 2/3 letter grade (from X- to X+)!
- If you miss only one class, I will increase your grade by 1/3 letter grade (From X- to X)!
- Missing up to three classes is acceptable and will result in no penalty.

- Every class missed beyond three will result in a drop of one letter grade.
- Additionally, three late arrivals to or early departures from class count as an absence.

Excused absences are absences none-the-less... I make no differentiation. I have no qualms about failing you for poor attendance. This policy is not flexible, so be in class and be on time!

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.

Supplies Needed:

- A 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera with manually adjustable aperture, shutter speed, and focus. You will need this camera (in good, working condition) by the second week of the course, so start looking now for new, used, or borrowable cameras. (*Recommended models: Nikon FM10, FM2, FM3, FE2, N8008; Canon Rebel, AE-1; Pentax KM, K-1000, ZX-M. Older, used cameras are often fine – bring them to me if you need help ascertaining their working condition.*)
- Black & White film: *at least* 8-10 rolls of 400 ISO, 36 exposure, 35mm film (*Kodak Tri-X, Arista, Ilford HP-5, or Fuji Neopan 400 – are recommended*). More experienced photographers can venture into other ISOs and film brands.
- Black & White photographic paper: 8x10" Resin-Coated (RC) Multigrade paper, box of 100 sheets (*recommended: Ilford or Arista*). The 25+10 sheet packs are a great deal at the bookstore if you'd like to purchase incrementally.
- One, flat print portfolio for turing in projects like the Itoyo or something similar.
- Negative-sleeve pages: 8.5x11" with 7 rows of 5 frames, package of 25 (*Recommended: Printfile or Clearfile, that will fit 3-ring binder*). You can buy these individually at the bookstore.
- Three-ring binder: 1" or 2" capacity, for holding negatives and contact sheets (but NOT for turning in projects).
- Sharpie fine-tip permanent marker

Other recommended supplies:

- A tripod and cable release that will fit your camera
- Old clothes or an apron and a small hand towel for working in the darkroom

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.

Cell phones are both a blessing and a curse. The number I have provided above is for my mobile (and only) phone, so please do not call me late at night or on the weekends expecting to just “leave a message”. Generally, I prefer you contact me via email. For your own cell phones, *I don’t want to see or hear them during class*. You won’t see me making or answering phone calls (or text messaging) in class, so pay your fellow students and me the same respect – **turn it off or silence it!**

Special note for cell phone use in the darkroom (FAB 335): cell phones are ***absolutely*** prohibited in the darkroom. Not to be used, EVER! Leave it outside in your book bag, as any light emitted by a cell phone will damage your own photo paper and likely the work of others.

If your phone rings during class or I see you using it, I will ask you to leave and mark you absent for that class. 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.

The UM Bookstore	
KEH Camera Web – used cameras and gear (Atlanta) www.keh.com	Freestyle Camera Web / mail-order (Los Angeles) 800.292.6137 www.freestylephoto.biz
B&H Photo Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.606.6969 www.bhphotovideo.com	Adorama Web / mail-order (New York City) 800.223.2500 www.adorama.com

The Fine Print:

Students with Access/Special Needs

It is not at all uncommon for students to have unique classroom needs. I am happy to do as much as I can to help all of you meet the standards of this curriculum. Students with disabilities or special needs should meet with the instructor as soon as possible.

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.