

## Introduction to Photography

Term 2013-2 Syllabus

**PGY 2401c**

**Professor:** Joseph Tamargo

**Phone # :** 305-237-3171/ 305-237-7438

**Office room:** 3604-9/ 3305

**Email:** jtamargo@mdc.edu

Materials:

1. A camera, preferably with fully adjustable focus, aperture and shutter speed. Questions about your individual camera are appropriate, but we will not spend time comparing various brands of cameras. A good general rule is usually the simplest and most expensive.
2. Film and enlarging paper **Kodak Tri-x 400** ***do not buy Tmax or C-41 color black and white film.*** **Paper:** Ilford Multigrade IV Pearl RC paper or fiber paper is recommended. Generally students use between 9-12 rolls of film and 100 sheets of paper a semester. **Wait for paper lecture before buying Paper you will then be informed as to brand and type of paper for class.**
3. Gadgets odds and ends such as **negative sleeves** are very important for keeping your negatives dust free and other damaging elements. An anti-static cloth or negative cleaning brush can also be very helpful.

Text: Horenstein, Black & White Photography (buy on line)

Suggested Text: John Szarkowski, Looking at Photograph

Stephen Shore, The Nature of Photographs

**Course Description: Goals and Objectives:** This course is designed to teach students how to develop black and white film, and make black and white finished prints. Its primary aim is also to increase and enhance the student's visual awareness and expression through the medium of black and white photography in the visual arts. Photography assignments will generally be related to how to photograph and not what to photograph. **Students are required to complete each class assignment on time.** Late assignments will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor.

**Requirements:** Final portfolio of the semester's work is a show and tell time, which takes place at the conclusion of the semester. It is an opportunity to present all of your semester's work including the best of your work, carefully edited, printed and spotted. The minimum required amount of work are your 10 best-printed photographs on 8" by 10" paper, a minimum of 9 contact sheets (no duplicates), 10 rolls of Black and White film must be shot during semester (Class provides first roll of film). This averages to less than 1 rolls per week and 7 photographs per week on a 16 week schedule. The semester is 16 weeks.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, 3 unexcused absences can result in

**being dropped from this course, or the lowering of your final grade.**

Consistent tardiness can result in a lower final grade.

**Incompletes** are not given without documentation, along with documentation the student must have completed 50% of the course with a minimum of a C average.

**Student Withdrawal from Class:**

If you feel that you will be unable to complete the requirements for passing this class, you have the option to withdraw from the class by the College's "drop date". However, there are consequences of which you need to be aware if you drop a class or stop attending and you should always speak to your instructor or an advisor first. For example, you must earn at least two-thirds or 67% of the total credits for which you have registered and that failure to comply with this requirement will adversely impact your financial aid status with MDC. If after considering the possible consequences, you still opt drop the class, keep in mind that it is your responsibility to do so (not the instructor's) and failure to withdrawal will result in you earning a grade of "F" for the course you stop attending.

**PGY 2401C** is an art studio class that is focused on the practice and theory of Black and White photography. The course will examine the production of the photograph; both the aesthetic and technical aspects, with an awareness of the historical significance of the development of this process. The course will also examine the art of photography through the use of film cameras and the developing and printing process of Black and White photography.

**Course Competency**

The student will apply the terminology used in black and white photography by:

- a. performing classroom exercises designed to learn the terminology
- b. researching the applications of this terminology
- c. demonstrating the ability to maintain a discourse using the terminology

The student will demonstrate the skills necessary to process black and white film by:

- a. properly exposing a roll of black and white film
- b. processing the film in standard chemistry for good negatives
- c. preparing and utilizing the negative for the silver print process

The student will demonstrate the skills necessary to make black and white silver prints by:

- a. properly utilizing a photographic enlarger for the print
- b. properly processing the print through standard print chemistry
- c. properly finishing the print for portfolio purposes

The student will demonstrate aesthetic awareness by:

- a. weekly production of a group of photographic negatives and prints
- b. showing the prints at a series of scheduled critique sessions
- c. discussing the esthetic significance of the prints produced
- d. researching the work of significant photographic artists
- e. assembly of a final portfolio for portfolio review

**Learning Outcomes** Students should familiarize themselves with Miami Dade College 10 Learning Outcomes in this class we will incorporate several of these

outcomes during the term in your assignments. As an example during critiques we will touch upon outcomes 1, and 9. As graduates of Miami Dade College, students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
2. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.
3. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.
8. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively.
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities.
10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.

### **GRADING.**

The most important factors in grading are the **quality** and the **quantity** of the photographs you produce during the semester. **Critique assignments will account for 60% of your grade.** In these critiques, students should have no less than 10 photographs indicating their understanding of the assigned topic for that critique. **Late work will reduce your grade regardless of the quality and quantity. Final portfolio 20%, your ability to solve the technical problems of photography, the depth and breadth of your discussion and participation in class 10%, written assignments, class attendance and exam 10%. PRINTS WITH STAINS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**Reading:** This class could not possibly cover all photographic movements or photographers of the past 150 years. Students need to familiarize themselves with photography related material in the libraries both on and off campus.

**Critiques** You are expected to have a minimum of 10 photographs for each critique. These work prints should be selected from a much larger volume of work prints. There will be a minimum of 3 critiques during the semester. Students missing critiques or turning work in late will reduce their grade for that critique. No wet prints or stained prints. All work must be properly processed or it will not be accepted.

**Plagiarism**, consisting of the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and passing off of such work as the students own. Any student found guilty of violating academic integrity shall be subject

procedures and penalties set forth by the college.

**Other:** Lectures, seminars, question answer periods by visiting artists are mandatory attendance.

Field trips for photographing or to galleries/museums to discuss photography might take place during the semester.

### **Photographing Tips and Ideas.**

1. Hold the camera steadily
2. Carefully frame space within the edges.
3. Learn to see light.
4. Develop a sense of timing.
5. Become an expert in control of the mechanics of the camera itself, especially exposure, ISO, shutter speed, aperture choices, focus and depth of field.
6. Develop your own sense of what and how you want to photograph.
7. **Shoot a lot, as often as possible.**

**Understanding:** Levels of understanding vary from individual to individual; therefore students should not feel as if they are competing with one another. You should be aware that **your development as a photographer is directly connected to the time and effort you use in being one.**

**Demonstrations will be done only once per class schedule!** Slides will be shown only once per schedule class! There is no private tutoring for students who neglect their responsibility to attend class or being prompt to each session. It is your responsibility to acquire information missed during your absence.

**Be careful with chemicals. Protect your eyes. Avoid excessive contact with chemicals.** Some chemicals have been known to give people skin rash, use gloves or tongs if necessary. Chemicals might stain jewelry and will stain your clothing, wear an apron and bring towels. **If you are pregnant consult your physician.**

If you are unsure of what you are doing in the lab it is your responsibility to notify the instructor or the lab assistant immediately.

**Emergency** notify security **237-3100** or use **star phone 7-3100**

Only students who are currently enrolled in photography classes at the Wolfson campus are allowed in the lab area. **NO GUESTS ARE ALLOWED**

### **RULES AND REGULATION FOR LAB AND DARKROOM USE**

This class consists of theory and practical application all students are expected to do printing outside of regularly scheduled class time. All students will have ample class time to complete assignments.

**Lab use outside of class time is a privilege not a right.** Each student is responsible for maintaining and cleaning after themselves. Failure to do so will constitute immediate dismissal from class.

**It is the student's responsibility to make sure to lab procedures are**

**adhered to by all.**

**NO Smoking** Miami Dade College has a NO SMOKING Policy

1. No wet prints or hands on or near enlarger stalls.
2. Observe the order of the chemicals in both the film and print processing area for
3. You must use a tray when bringing in a test strip or print into the light area for evaluation.
4. Replace all lab materials to their original spot after use.
5. No equipment is to be removed from any room. (Theft **will constitute Expulsion! You have been warned**).
6. Wet prints are not acceptable for critiques. All prints must be dry before turning in for a grade and free of stains.
7. You must keep your possessions with you at all times you can not leave them at an enlarger and leave the area to do something else.
8. You cannot work at film developing and enlarging at the same time; one or the other.
9. You must sign in and out at the enlarger you are using, and **all students must have a towel at their workstation or you will not be allowed to work.**

Provided a lab assistant is available, the lab will be opened for your use 5 days a week.

You have priority only during your class time, all other lab times are open lab.

**USE OF PROFANITY OR AGGRESSIVE VERBAL BEHAVIOR IN THE CLASSROOM OR IN THE LAB WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. STUDENT WILL BE WARNED ONCE: STUDENT WILL BE SENT DEAN OF STUDENTS TO BE DROPPED FROM COURSE.**

**Students with special needs should inform the professor and contact the access department at the beginning of the course.**

**SECURITY HAS THE FINAL SAY ON WHO CAN BE IN THE LAB AREA; PLEASE DO NOT ARGUE WITH SECURITY IF YOU ARE ASKED TO LEAVE.**

**“What cannot be taught is the feeling for light”**

**Materials and Supplies**

**Most of your supplies can be purchased at the local and national retailers. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions before purchasing.**

**Pitman Photo**  
**13911 S. Dixie Hyway**  
**Miami 305 256-9558**

**Worldwide Foto**  
**5040 Biscayne Blvd.**  
**Miami 305 756-1744**  
**Will be moving in 2014**

**B&H**  
**Mail Order**  
**420 9TH avenue**  
**www.B&H.com**  
**1-800-9479950**

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### **Vocabulary**

ASA / ISO / film speed    SLR single lens reflex

Aperture    silver halide crystals

Bracketing    angle of view

Burning contrast

Dodging emulsion

Contact sheet grain

Density negative

Depth of field over development

Depth of field scale under development

Distance scale reticulation

Develop exposure

f-stop over exposure

Focal plane shutter under exposure

Shutter speed viewfinder

Developer test strip / test print

Stop bath film leader

Fixer latent image

Fiber based paper hypo clear