

Course Code – Section: PHTG 250-Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Beginning Photography (3 credits)
Term & Year: Spring 2015
CRN: 10154

Instructor: Laura J. Bennett
Phone: 281-222- 4823 cell (emergencies only)
Email: lbennett@sierranevada.edu
Office Hours: HAMC RM 202 by appointment
Class Meeting Time: M, W 1:00 - 3:45

Holman Arts & Media Center - RM 202

Prerequisites: None
Co requisites: None

Course Description:

This is a **studio based beginning course** in black and white photography.

It is designed to introduce students to the 35mm SLR camera. Students will learn the basics of photography and produce work that demonstrates knowledge of the medium. Students will gain an understanding of visual media and how to use photography as a creative tool and means of visual communication.

The first assignments will teach basic technical skills and provide the grounds for making technically sound prints. Other projects will challenge students' artistic sense and will demand a more conceptual approach. There will be a brief overview of the history of photography throughout the course, and presentations will be given on specific photographic processes, photographers and various other artists. We will also briefly cover digital cameras and output.

Student Outcomes

The emphasis of the class will be learning:

- How to use your manual camera. This includes loading film, becoming familiar with shutter speeds, aperture and depth of field.
- How to take correct photographs using a manual 35mm camera. This involves exposing film under various lighting conditions and environments.
- Proper methods of film development.
- Darkroom procedures, techniques and processes in order to produce quality prints.
- A brief history of photography and discussion of contemporary photography.
- The importance of the critique process.
- Film scanning and printing digitally
- An overview of digital cameras, their usage and printing options

In addition:

- Students will demonstrate through assignments, critiques and a final print portfolio that they have achieved the competency to produce technically sound and visually engaging black and white images in a darkroom environment.
- Students will be able to print images from their digital cameras via USB or from the memory card
- Students will be able to discuss formal, technical, creative and conceptual aspects of their photographic images.
- Students will be able to understand and appreciate the critique process and "see" in a new way as well as learn a new visual language.
- Students will appreciate the history of the photographic medium and will be required to make a presentation to the class on a well-known photographer of their choosing.

Instructional Strategies:

The class will be composed of lectures, discussions, presentations, videos, lab work, class critiques, and technical demonstrations. It would be advantageous to purchase the recommended book.

Recommended Text:

Photography, An Introduction to Black-and-White Photographic Technique, by Barbara London & Jim Stone (8th Edition)

Attendance:

25% of your grade is based on attendance!

Attendance is essential for a studio-based class like this, where much of the learning is hands-on.

The first two weeks are critical, as they form the basis and foundation for the rest of the semester.

You can't "read" or look at someone else's notes and learn photography.

- A student is allowed a total of 3 **excused** absences for the semester without penalty.
- Please be aware: Absence from a critique or leaving a critique early lowers your grade on that assignment by a full letter.

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date it's due. Assignments will be graded based on conceptual and technical aspects, as well as execution of the image. Plan to complete them a few days before a critique, because you may decide you need to do them over. Visual art projects almost always need more work beyond the first edit, and therefore will most likely take longer than originally planned. **Don't come to class empty-handed** because you waited until the last minute and "something happened" (like the chemicals were bad, the water was off, there were no enlargers available, etc.). "Something" frequently does happen and your planning must take this into account. All student work is graded on an individual basis at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Requirements:

1. Four (4) assignments will be given and account for 40% of your grade.
2. One research presentation on a photographer of your choice will be given
3. Readings will be assigned throughout the term, either from handouts or web-based material.
5. A final portfolio will be due at the end of the semester and will account for 25% of your grade.
6. The final portfolio critique is mandatory. Students will fail the project if they do not attend.
7. Students need to save all contact sheets and working materials for each project.
8. Students are required to maintain a clean studio (darkroom lab) and report any malfunctions or broken equipment.
9. Attendance is required and accounts for 25% of your final grade.
10. There will be (2) quizzes during the semester and will be worth 10% of your grade
11. Students are required to adhere to the Student Honor Code, specifically in regard to plagiarism.

All work in this photography course must be created during the current semester. Any prior images will not be accepted.

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be based on photo assignments, quiz, research presentation, final portfolio, class participation & class attendance. As in most art courses, in order to earn an "A," you must create interesting and **superior work** that is well thought out and executed. You must also be **an active participant** in the class and critiques.

Grade Breakdown:

Four (4) Assignments = 40% of final grade

Final Portfolio = 15% of final grade

Attendance / Participation = 25% of grade

Research Presentation = 10% of final grade

2 Quizzes = 10% of final grade

A Word About Critiques:

At the root of art education and discourse is the *critique*. It is through the process of creating, exhibiting and discussing your work that your work progresses. It is not possible to know how successful you are until an audience views your work and responds to it. Your opinions are valued and discussed in this class during "crits." They are **not** to be taken lightly. The feedback you get in a crit can quickly help you solve difficult technical problems and give you new visual insight.

Do not miss critiques, even if you are unprepared to show your work. Remember to please be respectful towards your fellow students as you work on projects and discuss photography.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Link to the *Art and Art History Resources* page online at Prim Library: <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/art>

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class Schedule (Please Note: This schedule is subject to change.)

Week 1:

M-Introductions and Syllabus Overview

Recommended text, supply list & equipment demo, camera requirements, tour of darkroom.

W-Photogram Demo.

First Assignment Handout - Photograms

Second Assignment Handout -First roll of "experimental film"

-->HW: Bring objects for photogram first assignment on Monday

Week 2:

M-LAB - Photograms

W-LAB - Photograms

-->HW: Bring camera on Monday - you will be loading film, so you need your camera! Buy supplies!

Week 3:

M - Lecture: Loading film. Camera controls, exposure, aperture, shutter speed and depth-of-field.

W - Lab: Developing film.

-->HW: Shoot roll of film for second assignment and be prepared to develop on Monday.

Week 4:

M - Lecture: Making a contact sheet in the darkroom

LAB - Develop Film

W - LAB - Develop film / Make contact sheet

Week 5:

M -Feb 16th- President's Day - Holiday

W- Lecture: Making prints in the darkroom

LAB: develop film / Make contact sheet

Week 6:

M- LAB

***W Feb 25 - Critique (Photograms and Experimental Roll)**

Third Assignment Handout

Week 7:

M - Lecture: Digital Scanning and printing

W - LAB

Week 8:

M - Lecture: Filters, dodging & burning in the darkroom

W - LAB

Week 9: SPRING BREAK (March 16th - 20th)

Schedule (cont'd)

Week 10:

M - Lecture: Toning Prints (Selenium, Sepia and Blue)

4th Assignment Handout

W - LAB

Week 11:

M - LAB

***Wed- April 1st - Critique (3rd Assignment)**

Week 12:

M - Lecture: 19th Century Photo History

W - LAB

Week 13:

M - Lecture: Final Print Portfolio Guidelines / Window Matting Demo

W - LAB

Week 14:

***Mon - April 20th - Critique (4th Assignment)**

W- Class Presentations

Week 15:

M/W: April 27th & 29th - Full Lab Days

Week 16:

Monday May 4th - Final Critique / Portfolios Due

Wed May 6th & Thursday May 7th - No Classes / Finals Prep

Pick Up Portfolios / Individual Meetings -Wed May 13th

Supply List

1) CAMERA: 35mm SLR **FILM** Camera

You must bring in your camera on Tuesday January 28th. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

Your camera **MUST** have:

- Either an all-manual mode (**M**) or one that has the option of full manual operation.
- Manual Focus (you cannot use auto-focus!)
- A built in light meter and a working battery
- You need a 50mm lens. Don't start with a wide angle or zoom lens.
- A user manual for your camera. If you buy a used camera and it doesn't come with a booklet or manual, try [http:// www.manualsrus.com](http://www.manualsrus.com) or [http:// www.craigcamera.com](http://www.craigcamera.com). You can almost always find a **pdf** on how to operate your specific camera – no matter how old it is.

2) **FILM**: 8-10 rolls of film w/ 24-exposures.

Choices are:

Kodak TMAX 100

ARISTA EDU Ultra 100 ISO

ILFORD Delta Pro 100

3) **PAPER**: Begin with a 25-sheet box of either:

ILFORD Multigrade Classic FB 8" x 10" double-weight paper

OR

Arista EDU FB Variable Contrast Glossy

- DO NOT BUY "GRADED" PAPER!!
- DO NOT BUY Student packs that include 36 roll film.
- DO NOT BUY RC (Resin Coated) paper – it's plastic-based and not archival
- **Do NOT open photo paper except under a safelight!**

NOTE: You will need to buy additional paper film and paper as the semester progresses. Be careful when buying film or paper -- you can't return it.

4) **FILM DEVELOPING TANK**

Paterson Plastic Tank (comes with 1 reel only). Get an extra reel in order to process more than 1 roll of film at a time.

5) NEGATIVE SLEEVES: Package of 25 Print File negative sleeves for 35mm film and 25 pack of 8x10 sleeves for prints

6) (1)ENVELOPE: 10" x 13" clasp envelop for handing in assignments.

7) 3-Ring Binder for your negatives, prints, notes and papers

Suggested:

Silver Metallic Sharpie: for writing on contact sheets

Optional Camera Equipment: Tripod & cable release.

Apron (photo chemicals ruin clothes)

Scissors, pencils and a pad for taking notes on your developing times etc...

*If you plan on doing some digital camera work, you will need an external drive or large capacity USB and inkjet printing paper for printing in the digital lab.

Local Dealers:

Gordon's Photo Service in Reno: <http://gordonsphotoservice.com/>

Online Resources:

Freestyle (800-292-6137) <http://www.freestylephoto.biz/> (shipping can be pricey)

Adorama <http://www.adorama.com> (good deals on used cameras)

B&H Photo (800-947-6628) www.bhphotovideo.com). You don't have to pay tax, but do pay shipping