

Course Code – Section: PHTG 250

Course Title (Credits): Beginning Photography (3 credits)

Term & Year: Fall 2019

CRN: 80015

Instructor: Daniel Kelly

Phone: 775-881-7422 (text, or mobile, 775-413-0578)

Email: dkelly@sierranevada.edu

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Office Hours: Marketing Office - Prim Library Mezzanine - By Appointment

Class Meeting Time: MW 5:00pm – 6:45pm, Holman Arts & Media Center 202
(Digital Arts Lab)

Lab Times: Section 1 - M 7:00pm-8:45pm | Section 2 - W 7:00pm-8:45pm |

Prerequisites: NONE

Corequisites: None

Course Description:

This is an entry-level studio course introducing fundamental techniques for producing images. A variety of photographic methods will be introduced including camera functions and production methods within the art of photography. Students will participate in digital and darkroom techniques to produce images while addressing the wider context of photographs in group critiques.

Student Outcomes

Upon course completion:

1. The student will be able to conceive and produce ambitious photo-based work. These photographs will be able to participate in the complexity of visual culture.

2. The student will be able to discuss conceptual, factual, and technical information that characterizes and defines the student's photographic practice.
3. The student will be able to argue and elaborate on their own ideas and opinions as they relate to the readings, lectures, slides, and class critiques.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and complete projects characteristic of professional artistic practice.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

1. Students' class participation will be measured by the instructor's observation during studio time, class critique, and day-to-day participation in class discussion.
2. Student work will be measured by the instructor's observation of student work and critique participation.
3. In addition, the student will provide both midterm and final self-evaluations, addressing the student's movement in the course.

Instructional Strategies

The strategies employed in this course are structured to develop personal interpretation and growth and to build a working knowledge of diverse photographic materials and methods. A dialogue among the student's camera, vision, and the print/object are essential. Classes will be composed of one or more of the following: lecture, discussion, slide or video presentation, lab work, critique, and technical demonstration.

In addition to your SNC Student email requirement, you must obtain and maintain access to the Canva platform, as assignments, communications, and grades will use the system.

Recommended Text:

Photography, An Introduction to Black-and-White Photographic Technique, by Barbara London ([Current Edition on Amazon](#))

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

- <http://amzn.to/1QjKNVP>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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The Critique Handbook - A sourcebook and Survival Guide, Kendall Buster and Paula Crawford

[\(Current Edition on Amazon](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

- <http://amzn.to/1NhIbT7>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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On Photography - Susan Sontag

Camera Lucida - Roland Barths

Required Equipment

For this class, you will need a camera with manual control of shutter, aperture, and speed rating (ISO/ASA) control.

You may use a film camera, and B&W film to be developed and printed in our darkroom.

Additionally, you will need, at a minimum:

- For darkroom photography
 - 25-50 sheets of 8x10 or larger B&W photo paper for darkroom printing
 - 10 or more rolls of Black and White Film with a minimum of 24 exposures
 - A 35mm SLR Camera
- For Digital Photography
 - A Suitable camera, preferably a digital SLR camera
 - 25-50 sheets of 8x10 or larger inkjet photo paper for darkroom printing

- For the class as a whole
 - Removable Storage of at least 250GB for digital photography and the back up of your course work

The above items are required.

Attendance

Missing more than three classes will have a serious effect on the student's grade. Participation in the entire critique is necessary for that project's fulfillment. Do not plan on leaving before the final exam/critique.

Class Requirements

Assignments:

1. Readings will be assigned throughout the term. In addition to readings from the required texts, Xeroxes from various contemporary sources will be required.
2. A series of preliminary assignments will be given and account for 30% of the student's grade.
3. A written formal project proposal and the final project will account for 30% of the student's grade. The project parameters will be of the student's design and will demonstrate the hands-on and conceptual goals stated above.
4. Students are required to participate in at least three cultural events and provide a written response for each.
5. All work must be turned in a portfolio with the student's name on it.
6. Students will be graded on an individual basis. There will be no across-the-class comparisons of student work.
7. Student participation in a project's critique is a necessary component of that project's fulfillment.
8. Participation in the final critique is mandatory. The student will fail the project if they do not attend for the full time.
9. When grading assignments, the instructor will be looking for conceptual application, craftsmanship, creativity,
10. and class participation.
11. When presenting projects students should have available all supporting material, i.e., work prints, notes, etc.

12. Students are required to maintain a clean studio and practice studio stewardship in order to provide safe and
13. productive conditions in the studio for the success of their and their peers' work.
14. Students are required to adhere to the Student Honor Code, specifically with regard to plagiarism. In photography courses, all work must be created during the present semester for the current assignment. If for any reason the student wishes to employ images taken prior to this assignment, the work must be cleared beforehand by
15. the instructor.

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be based on photo assignments, quizzes, 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. Not presenting your work at critique and participating in the presentation of your peers will result in a maximum grade of "D" for the project.

Your projects will be graded according to two systems of evaluation:

First, the four Ps -

- **Practice:** Did you apply yourself to the project at hand?
- **Prompts:** Did you address the assignment prompt correctly diligently?
- **Punctuality:** Were you at critique to stand with your work? Did you offer honest feedback to your peers **based on the current class section?**
- **Progress:** Each project is part of a scaffold. Are you incorporating each project's objectives in the work you make throughout the semester?

Second, the SNC/FA rubric:

- **Consistency** - Develop the ability to maintain a harmony in the elements of your work in this class. Work towards the presentation of a cohesive style that exhibits a personal style, rather than an eclectic collection of unrelated work.

Craft - Demonstrate a commitment to developing a degree of skill in the production of your work, and show that you understand the value of work well crafted.

Form - Work towards the understanding of the intersection of form with meaning and how form influences and communicates meaning in the work.

Content - Strive to demonstrate through the work you produce a fluid, clear expression of the subject matter present in the work.

- **Context** - Work to understand how historical and contemporary theory and practice connects to the work you produce.
- **Creativity** - Work towards expressions that require effort to achieve and are unique to your experience. You are the variable in your practice, and as an individual are unique - find your own approach within yourself.
- **Quality** - In all the categories above, you should show that you are not satisfied with simply attending and completing your work in this class. There should be a commitment to a finished, high standard of practice. This is the key to all work, not just artwork.
- **Integrity** - Your work will be produced for this class, during this class. Previous photography will not be accepted for any assignment.

Grade Breakdown:

This course follows a point system:

Evaluation breakdown:

- Class participation 20%
- Studio stewardship/ citizenship 10%
- Cultural events 10%
- Preliminary critiques 30%
- Final proposal project 30%

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. We will be reading a lot from

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>

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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 the 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. There are no exceptions to the use of your email as a means of communication.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, the 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

This schedule is subject to change and does not reflect holidays and breaks.

Monday

Wee
k 1 **Course Introduction**

Wee
k 2 **Elements of a camera - Pinhole
Cameras - Exposure Triangle -
Camera Due**

Wednesday

Wee
k 1 **Course Introduction -
Syllabus - Composition
Exercises -**

**Assignment 1 - Get a
Camera**

Wee
k 2 **Printing - Darkroom and
Lightroom**

Assignment #2 - UFO

Wee
k 3 **Lightroom - Photoshop
integration**

Wee
k 4 **Time, motion, grain, material**

Wee
k 5 **Truth - Believing is seeing**

Wee
k 6 **Lensing - Macro and Telephoto**

Wee
k 7 **Midterms -
Composition/Lighting/Camera
Control**

Wee
k 8 **Assignment #4 - Portrait**

Wee
k 9 **Digital Processing - Final Project
Assignment/Histogram/ISO/Noise**

Wee
k 10 **Automation/Printing - Portraits
Due**
Assignment: DOF/Focus

Wee
k 11 **Course Evaluations**
Printing Lab

Wee
k 3 **Lightroom- Photoshop**

Wee
k 4 **Time, Motion Grain, Material
- Assignment #2 UFO Due**

Wee
k 5 **In-class hoax - Assignment
#3 - Truth**

Wee
k 6 **Lensing - Macro and
Telephoto**

Wee
k 7 **Midterms -
Composition/Lighting/Camer
a Control**

Wee
k 8 **The Portrait**

Wee
k 9 **Film Scanning vs. Digital
Images - Final Project
Proposals- Due**

Wee
k 10 **Concepts - Abstraction**
Processing for Newsprint

Wee
k 11 **Printing Labs**

Wee Finals - Final Project Presentations
k 12

Wee Finals - Final Project
k 12 Presentations