Photography as an Art Form
Syllabus
Summer I 2020

**CLASS:** ART 3334.01

**TIME:** M, T, W, R and F 9:45 A.M – 11:15 A.M for Synchronous (Zoom) Instruction
Asynchronous (BB) Instruction will be provided ONLINE

**Location:** Online

**INSTRUCTOR:** Marilyn Carren

**Office:** AASA 1.117 Photo Lab
**Email:** Marilyn.carren@utrgv.edu
**Cell:** 956-358-3495 (Text First Preferred)

**OFFICE HOURS:** 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY – BY TELEPHONE OR TEXT
(OR BY MUTUALLY AGREED UPON APPT. TIME)


Free access to this book is available from your library, so there is NO excuse not to get the text.

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES:**

- Approximately an additional 8 rolls of black and white film, 36 exposures, (4) of 100 ISO and (4) of 400 ISO. Four rolls of each ISO speed would be the preferred mix to purchase. Many students have had success with the Kentmere brand. Kentmere is inexpensive yet reliable for this class. If you wish to choose another brand, that is fine just make sure it is TRUE b&w film, the first two rolls have been provided for you.
- **DO NOT PURCHASE ILFORD XP2 or KODAK CN 400 Film as c-41 process film WILL NOT work for this class.**
- 1 package (25 sheets) of 35mm archival plastic negative pages or simply reuse the 2 you have been given.
- A tripod
- A matchbox (provided for you)
- A new roll of 35mm film (Provided for you in your packet)
- An empty roll of 35mm film (provided)
- Some thin cardboard (the box the new film comes in is fine)
- Soda Can
- Black electric tape
- A plastic part from a spiral binder (provided)
- A needle or sewing pin, or sharp fine nail will work
- Scissors
- Exacto Knife (or small cutting blade)
- Black Sharpie

**Recommended Supplies:**

- an inexpensive reflector (could be white foam core)
- X-acto knife or inexpensive blades from dollar store work even better
- Black tape can be electrical tape
- Various consumable supplies as needed
CAMERA:

You need a 35mm single lens reflex FILM camera with at least a normal (50mm) lens and a working light meter with instruction booklet or manual. (Many of these old manuals can be downloaded from the internet if your camera does not come with its manual.) It must be capable of fully manual exposure and focus. That means NO automatic cameras. Everyone must have his or her camera inspected by me and approved before our first assignment requiring use of the camera.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will investigate the photographic process using an historical perspective. Using photography as our medium, we will examine the many levels on which meaning can be constructed and created, including selecting subject matter, developing a personal aesthetic, and understanding how form influences content. You will practice these concepts within the context of your own work and begin recognizing these concepts in the work of others. Instruction in camera theory will be focused on 35mm film photography and other analog processes. Darkroom chemistry and methods will be explored and may include traditional, experimental and also hybrid (combined analog and digital) photographic printing processes.

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to the art, mechanics, applications, history, and importance of photography by studying and understanding the fundamentals of black and white photography. Students will learn basic camera operations, techniques for controlling film exposure and compositional strategies. While some digital darkroom applications and terminology will be introduced in the class, emphasis will be on traditional Black and White photography. The historical impact of photography as an art form will be discussed in the class along with its relevance in our lives today.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course:

After completing this course you will understand basic film based photography terms and techniques. You will have a working knowledge of a traditional darkroom You will have working knowledge of a traditional film camera and be able to use it manually to accomplish your creative goals. You will develop skills to practice these techniques while exploring the medium of photography for your own personal creative expression.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS COURSE:

Students will attain a basic level of technical proficiency, vocabulary and conceptual understanding of photography through traditional and digital imaging processes. They will learn basic photographic principles of exposure, focus, depth of field, lighting, composition, subject and content. They will also learn about the uses and experiments in photography throughout history and the impact it has had in the world. Through the lecture presentations, students will gain awareness of issues of representation and context; and begin to formulate/develop their own ideas and aesthetic using traditional, and occasionally, digital imaging techniques in photography.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements:

This course also addresses core curriculum requirements. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) outcomes are:

Critical Thinking Skills: You will research using various books, articles and media to demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of photographic works in the arts

Communication Skills: You will articulate an informed personal reaction to works of art in this course.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: You will gain hands on experience in using various camera settings to create demonstrable outcomes in your photographic art

Social Responsibility: We will have an ongoing, and thorough, discussion about the ethics of representation in the photographic arts and you will learn to consider your social responsibility while engaging with people and cultures within your works of art.
Personal Responsibility: Will be demonstrated by exhibiting a will to succeed in the course. Meeting deadlines, staying current with reading assignments and undertaking personal research to nurture your own growth in the area of photography will satisfy this requirement.

**HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED (GRADED):**

Please refer to “Points Available to Earn” chart below for an exact description of the maximum points available to earn on each assignment. Overall, your course grade will be affected by attendance, class participation, the completion and evaluation of your projects, and the grades you earn on your quizzes, exams and/or presentations. On occasion, we will consider our work as a class to help you refine your skills and reflect upon other points of view and skill levels in imaging and digital photographic techniques. We will learn, as a group, to be respectful of an individual’s art and design skills as well differences in each other’s own personal and cultural aesthetics as we explore this process.

**The following is typical criteria that will be considered in grading projects:**

- Creativity/Originality (10 possible) ______________
  - evidence of moving past 1st choice thinking
  - interesting choice of subject
  - theme/message/idea is clear and effectively communicated
- Quality (10 possible) ______________
  - print is clean, no stains, stray marks, etc.
  - care was taken to print at correct exposure
  - paper is not fogged, bent or mishandled
- Composition (10 possible) ______________
  - evidence of balance/unity
  - Rhythm/Repetition
  - Composition rules considered
  - i.e. rule of thirds (no centering)
- Followed Instructions (10 possible) ______________
  - Included sleeved negatives that show assignment was done correctly; Contact Sheet, print is at “correct” exposure as assigned, with contact strip, in a folder with name included
- Overall Presentation (10 possible) ______________
  - care and consideration was given to the finished product—it was artfully presented

**GRADING**

Semester grades will be assigned based upon the following standard point system:

- A = 1000 – 900 points (100- 90 percent)
- B = 899 – 800 points (89 - 80 percent)
- C = 799 – 700 points (79 - 70 percent)
- D = 699 – 600 points (69 - 60 percent)
- F = 599 points and below (59 percent and below)

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is critical, as you will need class time to understand and ask questions about your assignments. Students missing more than 3 classes, may, at the instructor’s option, be administratively dropped from the class. Please email me in advance with problems and concerns that may be causing you to miss class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the lecture and assignment information from me or your fellow students at your earliest opportunity. If you need assistance with any assignment, feel free to arrange to meet with me during my office hours or during class. My office hours are listed above.

Tardiness will influence your final course grade as the instruction portion of the class begins on time at the beginning of class. If you are late and miss instruction you will be at a disadvantage trying to keep up with your class work. Be advised that due to the nature of this course it will be necessary that you might need to work on assignments outside of class time on a regular basis. We generally try to hold the lab open outside of class time on for this purpose. Details TBA.
ASSIGNMENTS: All work must be completed. NO INCOMPLETES WILL BE GIVEN. All projects must be turned in with proper presentation in mind. Examples will be explained for each assignment and handouts detailing the assignments will be provided for almost every assignment. Your assignment must be turned in on the date due to receive full point value. **10% will be deducted for any assignment that is late** (late assignments will only be accepted for three class periods after the due date). Occasionally, assignments that were submitted on time may be need to be reworked to try to solve aesthetic or technical problems and thereby garner additional grade points. No late assignments will have this opportunity, so please always turn your work in on time.

Most assignments are due at the end of the class session for the week listed as the due date. All assignment due dates are listed on the class schedule. You are responsible for turning your assignments in on time.

### POINTS AVAILABLE TO EARN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation #1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinhole Camera</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photogram</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exposure (Bracketing) Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depth of Field Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid – Term</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notebook</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motion Assignment</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project/Light</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Points Possible: 1000pts. = 100% of grade

Final Course Grade: 900-1000 = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C 600-699 = D; Below 599 = F

EXAMINATIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

A mid-term exam or a special project in lieu of an exam will be given about ¾ through the course. It is worth 100 points. A final will be given the last week of class it is worth 100 points. No make-up exams will be given.

The Lighting Assignment is the Final project are worth four normal class assignments. (200 points)


STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student...
Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about the last week of class.

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

MY ATTENDANCE POLICY
It is the responsibility of the student NOT THE INSTRUCTOR to drop or withdraw from the course if they feel they are not going to do well in the class. Good attendance and punctuality are expected for this class and will strongly affect your grade. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period and if necessary it may be taken again later in the class period. It is expected that students will attend EVERY class. You will be considered absent if you arrive at class after roll has been taken. Please be on time to class, as your tardiness disturbs the rest of the class. Constantly being late will affect your grade.

Absent students are responsible for having their homework in on time, getting missed notes/handouts, knowing deadlines, and other pertinent facts about the class. An absence is not an excuse for late projects, simply have someone deliver your work.

If a student cannot come to class, they need to drop or withdraw. It is the responsibility of the student to drop or withdraw from the course. You are required to attend a minimum number of contact hours or you risk being administratively dropped from the class by the instructor. If you have a problem that causes you to be absent more than once or twice, communicate with your instructor.

DON’T MISS THE LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS OR WITHDRAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY WITH A GRADE OF “DR” OR “W”. AFTER THIS DATE THE STUDENT REMAINS ENROLLED IN COURSE AND RECEIVES WHATEVER LETTER GRADE HE/SHE EARNS.

All information regarding UTRGV requirements can be found on www.utrgv.edu
As the instructor, I reserve the right to make additions, deletions, and modifications to this syllabus and course requirements with reasonable notification to the students. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the Instructor and submit assignments as specified in the course syllabus. Students who do not comply with these course requirements may be administratively dropped from the course by the Instructor.

## Tentative Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Work Dates</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/1, 6/2</td>
<td>1. Pinhole camera images/Order Film—Research Cameras</td>
<td>6/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3, 6/4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5, 6/8, 6/9, 6/10</td>
<td>2. Photograms</td>
<td>6/11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6/11 – Camera and Film will be needed from this point on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/22</td>
<td>4. Depth of Field (DOF) &amp; Selective Focus</td>
<td>6/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/23, 6/24, 6/25, 6/26</td>
<td>5. Motion</td>
<td>6/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29, 6/30, 7/1, 7/2</td>
<td>6. Final Project/ Light</td>
<td>7/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>2 question final, review portfolios</td>
<td>7/5 Portfolio Reviews</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The details concerning each project will be given in class.

**Projects**

For each regular project, you must use at least one roll of 36 exposures to achieve usually three quality photographs. Each project must be turned in inside 8x10 sheet protectors in a folder. **DO NOT use your final portfolio binder to turn in regular projects!** Along with your quality prints, you must also turn in your contact sheets and test strips. Late work will be penalized, 10% off for each class period the work is late and will not be accepted after 3 class periods have elapsed. For the final project, you must turn in 5 photographs of excellent quality along with all of your contact sheets and working notes. The final portfolio must be turned in a three ring binder that includes all your work for the entire semester.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available at the end of class. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

UTRGV Academic Calendar Summer I 2020

Registration Begins
May 27 (Wed.) Payment Due Last day to join a waitlist
May 29 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 100% refund
Jun. 1 (Mon.) Summer I classes begin Last day to withdraw (drop all Summer I classes) and receive an 80% refund
Jun. 2 (Tues.) Last day to add a class or register for Summer I classes Last day to withdraw (drop all Summer I classes) and receive a 50% refund
Jun. 4 (Thurs.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
Jun. 25 (Thurs.) Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
Jul. 4 (Sat.) Independence Day. No classes.
Jul. 6 (Mon.) Study Day. No classes.
Jul. 7 (Tue.) Final Exams; Official last day of the Summer I term
Jul. 8 (Wed.) Grades Due at 3 p.m.
Arts 3334 – Photography as an Art Form-Student Profile
I will need to have this form on file in order to submit end of semester grades so please fill it out to the best of your ability and be sure it gets returned to me. Answer all the questions that you can, if some are not applicable to your situation, write N/A (not applicable.) Then read the statement at the bottom of the form and sign and date it, acknowledging that you have a copy of the syllabus, you have read it and are familiar with what is required of you for this course.

Name:

What do you wish to be called? (i.e. nickname)

Phone:

E-Mail:

Major and College Level:

Why did you sign up for this course? (Be honest)

Have you ever taken a photography class before? If so, provide details.

Can you name any photographers who specialize in fine art?

Do you or any of your family members like to practice photography?

Do you ever visit museums or art galleries specifically to look at photography?

If so, name which ones.

When and how often did you go?

What was important to you about the experience?

Name one way in which you see yourself as a creative person?

What are your career goals?

Can you imagine photography helping you to attain these goals?

If so, how?

I have read and fully understand the policies outlined in the syllabus/course outline. I am fully aware of the grading criteria for this course, and I understand all policies pertaining to attendance, late work, dishonesty, and make-up examinations. I understand that UTPA may use works produced in this class for gallery shows, in an online or printed gallery, or in department or college promotions.

____________________________________       __________________________
Signature                                      Date