

Art 150 Darkroom Practices

June 21st- July 21st, 2016

i200 Baskin Visual Arts

Jack Chapman

jackfoto@ucsc.edu

Office hours: T, TH 10:00-10:30am, 12:30-1:00pm

Course Description

Darkroom Practices is an exploration of black and white film based image making. Students will be shooting, and processing 35mm and medium format films. This course focuses on the production of fine photographic prints as well as the development of conceptual visual ideas. Time will be spent in the field actively shooting as well as in the darkroom honing technique, and in the studio refining visual language and concepts during critiques. This course is a rigorous and challenging study of film-based photography and students are expected to actively photograph, print, research, and engage in participatory critical thinking.

Objectives

- Fundamental knowledge and practice of photography including concepts of composition, exposure, lighting, and development of conceptual ideas and themes.
- Use of black and white darkroom techniques to achieve a finished series of archival fine prints.
- Exploration of photography as a medium for personal expression and communication.

Evaluation

- Attendance 10%
- Participation 30%
- Midterm 20%
- Final Project 40%

Midterm Critique

- The subject matter of these photographs is up to you and although experimentation and risk are strongly encouraged, this showing of 15 work prints should be a cohesive sketch of what you are working towards for your final edit of 10-12 fine prints. Use critique and individual meetings with me to hone your final selection for the series due at the end of the quarter. The work that you show at the midterm critique is worth 20% of your grade.
- No late work will be accepted. A failure to show up for the midterm with work will result in a zero for the midterm.
- You are expected to shoot a minimum of 20 rolls of film over the course of this class.

Final Project

-A final series of 10-12 fine prints along with an artist's statement will be due on the last day of class for critique. The subject of this project is up to you, but it must stand as a cohesive series of sequenced prints. Technical quality of the prints will be judged along with the conceptual content of the series. This project cannot be revised and resubmitted. The final project is worth 40% of your grade.

Equipment Required of Student

- All of the chemistry you will need will be provided in the lab with the exception of film developer. I recommend LegacyPro L110, Ilfotec HC or DD-X or Compard R09 One Shot Agfa Rodinal Formula Film Developer (500ml). No powder developer is allowed in the darkroom.
- Film camera with adjustable focus, aperture and shutter speed
- B&W Film, a minimum of 20 rolls is recommended
- Photographic paper: Fiber or RC, 8x10in, 50-100 sheets
- Sturdy box or portfolio for your prints
- Plastic box binder and archival negative storage sleeves
- Canned air
- Hand towel or rag
- Lens cleaner and lens cleaning tissues
- Notebook
- Comfortable walking shoes

Recommended Reading and Reference

- American Suburb X: <http://www.americansuburbx.com>
- The Digital Truth: <http://www.digitaltruth.com>
- The History of Photography*, Newhall
- Magnum, Fifty Years at the Frontline of History*, Miller
- Photography*, Brill, Kobre, London, Stone, Upton
- Photography*, Hart, Hornstein
- Photography, a Critical Introduction*, Wells
- Shutter Babe*, Kogan
- Telling True Stories*, Call, Kramer

Class Schedule

Week 1

T 6/21 Meet at i200
Free write
Introduction
Showing work
Lunch
Introduction to analog photographic practice
Darkroom introduction
Library TR section

TH 6/23 We will meet at the center aisle of the SC Metro Station
Bring a film camera along with its manual, and field trip waiver
Free write

Ride busses around the county taking photographs
Discussions of cameras, camera handling and photographing
Location scouting
Explore on foot

Week 2

T 6/28

Meet at i200
Come to class with 2 rolls of exposed and undeveloped B&W film
Free write
Film processing demonstration
Process film
Lunch
Analog printing demonstration
Working in the darkroom
Clean up

TH 6/30

Meet at i200, time TBA
Big Sur field trip!

Week 3

T 7/5

Meet at i200
Free write
Darkroom workday

TH 7/7

Meet at i200, time TBA
San Francisco galleries field trip!

Week 4

T 7/12

Meet at i200
Free write
Midterm critique
Lunch
Midterm critique continued
Studio lighting workshop

TH 7/14

Meet at i200
Bring all of your prints, negatives and proof sheets to date
Free write
Spot toning and print toning demo
Lunch
Individual meetings and project development
Working in darkroom
Clean up

Week 5

T 7/19

Meet at i200
Free write
Darkroom workday

TH 7/21

Meet at i200

Your final series of 10-12 fine prints with an artist statement is due

Free write

Darkroom clean up

Potluck lunch

Final critique