

University of Calgary  
Department of Art

### **COURSE OUTLINE Spring 2013**

#### **ART (ART) 235 Section 20**

#### **Introduction to Photography (SS 018)**

Lecture 20: M/W 08:00-10:15; F 08:00-09:00

Lab B20: MW 10:15-12:30; F 09:00-10:00

**Instructor:** Kristine Thoreson  
**Office Location:** AB 666  
**Office Phone:** 403 220-2579  
**E-Mail:** knthores@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** Fridays by appointment

#### **Course Description**

An introductory course in current photographic methods, including digital photography, digital image processing, film photography, film developing and printing and the presentation of photographs in both digital and paper-based media.

#### **Prerequisite**

None

#### **Antirequisite(s)**

Not open to students with 300-level credit or above in photography. Credit for only one of Art 235, 335 or 336 will be permitted.

**Notes:** Each student must have uninterrupted access to a good-quality digital camera. A course fee covering a range of materials and supplies is required.

#### **Objectives of the Course**

Introductory level work in photography theory and criticism and photographic practice using silver-based and digital photographic materials will be undertaken. This will include intensive use of the variables of exposure, composition, negative development, silver-based printing of photographic materials, digital capture and printing, artistic concept development and development of a spoken and written vocabulary regarding art and photography theory.

#### **Textbooks and Readings**

There is a required course pack for this class. Pick it up at *Bound and Copied* in the lower level of MacEwan Hall. Cost: TBA

#### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Evaluation is on the basis of term work. Assignments will be gathered in your portfolio to be submitted on **June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>**. The weighting of the two portfolios is **40%** for the first and **60%** for the second. The difference in weighting of the portfolios is attributable to the circumstance that virtually everyone will be covering quite a bit of new ground on the technical side, especially regarding darkroom processes, and substantial

time is required simply to advance one's skills to the point of being able to make effective, creative use of them. Late assignments will be docked one full letter grade per DAY late without a valid Doctor's note.

Portfolios will be graded and reported to you on these specific factors:

## Grading Criteria

**Originality and Improvement:** As discussed in class, is the idea or approach to the image interesting, unique? Does the student have an interesting personal point of view for each image? Has the student chosen an interesting time of day to suit the idea? Have we seen this image or approach to the topic before in class or elsewhere? Did the student put effort into making a great image that explores a topic conceptually? Did he /she advance their creative and technical skills from their previous level of ability?

0/3 = little effort apparent, little if any concept or idea behind the images

1/3 = typical, difficulty in finding a great approach for the image, no real point or idea communicated, no effort towards improvement apparent

2/3 = good effort apparent, some distracting or unresolved elements apparent, good concept beginning to appear, more work towards improvement needed

3/3 = great effort, very interesting perspective, exciting to look at and refreshing to see, strong concept or idea apparent, clear improvement or effort to improve demonstrated

**Exposure:** Is the image exposed well and / or photographed using a suitable level of available light as discussed in class?

0/3= mostly black, or mostly white

1/3= very underexposed or overexposed, unsuitable conditions chosen

2/3= a little underexposed or overexposed, better conditions needed

3/3= just right, good details in blacks, whites and mid-tones, colours are clear and not murky

**Composition / Presentation:** Has the student made use of compositional techniques discussed in class, have they explored their chosen scene for interesting angles and opportunities? Have they constructed or presented their work with good craftsmanship and attention to neatness and detail as noted in class demonstrations?

0/3= little apparent effort, snap-shot like, careless and sloppy or unsuitable presentation

1/3= not composed well, a good idea but difficulty executing it, crooked or poorly executed presentation

2/3= a good composition but some aspect of it is distracting or unappealing in some way, errors or improvement needed on presentation

3/3= great composition using rule of thirds or some other visually pleasing arrangement, clean, straight, aesthetically suitable and well executed presentation

**Sharpness:** Has the student understood how to focus an image and use depth of field correctly? Does the chosen area of focus help or hinder the success of the image technically and conceptually? Is the chosen area of focus easily identified, or do we have to strain to decipher what is in or out of focus in the scene?

0/3= Out of focus, or razor thin focus at the critical point of focus that makes it difficult to determine

where the focus is, and or out of focus all over the image.

1/3= Slightly soft focus at the critical point of focus.

2/3= In good sharp focus at critical point of focus but slightly shallow or deep depth so that the idea is negatively impacted

3/3= In good sharp focus at the critical point of focus and having a deep enough depth of field around the main object of the photo and for the idea presented

The grading scale applied to these assessment components is that given below under “Grading Method/Grading Scale.” Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep all assignments, even those previously graded. The instructor may wish to individually review your work in part or whole at other times than those at which portfolios are submitted, in order to give you individual advice.

### **Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam**

There is no final examination in this course.

### **Approved optional &/or mandatory supplementary fees**

Darkroom Chemistry Fee \$20 per student at the start of term. Please pay at the Woodshop and collect a “chit” receipt.

### **Course Activities**

Course activities consist principally of (1) photography with hand-made pin-hole cameras; (2) processing of black and white paper-negatives; (3) printing and mounting of black and white paper negatives; (4) photography with digital SLR cameras (5) exploration of digital files in the Adobe Photoshop® environment; (6) ink-jet printing and mounting of image files (7) written explanations of visual work, group presentation and discussion of photographs, both in printed and other forms; (8) lectures, critiques and discussions. Occasional visits to galleries and museums outside of class times may be assigned, with brief reports due when portfolios are reviewed. In every case no such activities will be scheduled in a way that interferes with your other scheduled courses.

### **Assignment One:**

Construct a pin-hole camera and make a series of paper-negative exposures that are Self-portraits.

Print a series of positives from your paper negatives. Mount a series of positives in the Art Department mounting room using the dry-mounting method demonstrated. For all assignments, mounting of photographs must be done by each individual student, no “store bought” mounting or “spray-mount”, glue, tape etc. will be accepted. Submit your camera and your best two or three mounted images for grading on June 5<sup>th</sup> in your portfolio.

### **Assignment Two:**

Using a digital SLR camera, create a series of photographs that explore a theme using the University of Calgary main Campus as the location. Write a full one-page explanation of your intentions including a project title, and the details of the theme that you have chosen. Please use complete sentences and correct spelling and grammar, as discussed in class. You must use Times New Roman 12 pt single-spaced text only. Do not hand in a point form list. Print (details TBA) and mount (using the dry-mounting method) three or more of your photographs no smaller than 8x10 inches each (but as large as you would like) and along with your written explanation, submit your project on June 5<sup>th</sup> in your first portfolio.

### **Assignment Three:**

Referring to the reading in your course-pack from author John Tagg, create a project that explores the idea of “truth” in representation. Make a series of exposures using your digital SLR, prepare your files for printing using Adobe Photoshop and print no smaller than 8x10 inches (details TBA) and mount (using the dry-mounting

method) your images. Submit two or more mounted images with a well thought out title in your second portfolio on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Assignment Four:**

Explore a theme of your own choosing with your digital SLR camera. Make a series of exposures, prepare your files for printing with Adobe Photoshop, print no smaller than 8x10 inches (details TBA) and mount (using the dry-mounting method) your work. Write a one-page single-spaced (12 pt Times New Roman) explanation of your project and include a well thought out title. Use correct spelling and grammar and do not hand in a point form list. Submit your explanation and two or more mounted photographs in your second portfolio on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading Method/Grading Scale:**

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

**Additional Information**

Required Materials:

- Cardboard or tin box, Small sewing needle, Sand-paper, Black electrical tape, Tin pie plate (small)
- One box of RC Black and White Photographic Paper (Glossy, Lustre, Pearl, Satin or Matte finish, 5x7 inch or 8x10 inch size, any brand, minimum of 10 sheets per student) DO NOT OPEN THIS BOX OF PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY DARKROOM WITH THE LIGHTS TURNED OFF! Please wait for instruction.
- Access to a digital SLR camera with download cord, memory card, USB stick, tripod, card-reader
- White Matte board for mounting prints – a variety of sizes may be used and will be discussed on an on going basis, white cotton gloves for picture mounting
- Dry-mounting tissue, a cork-backed ruler, a pencil and eraser, a utility knife with fresh blades
- Course pack from *Bound and Copied*
- Digital SLR camera, cameras will be used in class most days either for learning how to operate them or for shooting assignments. Be prepared to bring your

camera and download cords / card readers and to use them each day (even though there may be a few days that we do not).

### Safety Requirements

- Closed toe shoes are required in the darkroom and mounting room. No flip-flops or sandals please.
- Food and drinks are NOT permitted in the darkroom nor in the computer labs. No exceptions will be made.
- Anyone with respiratory health concerns or possible allergies to chemicals should identify themselves to the instructor at the start of the term. If allergies or chemical irritations in the darkroom occur during the course, please notify the instructor immediately. A safety orientation will be given at the start of the course.
- Darkroom work must be done during our class times and no unsupervised hours will be provided. Therefore a limited number of days at the start of the term will be provided for the completion of Assignment One.

### Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

Electronic devices are permitted only for note-taking during lectures and discussions. No texting or cell phone use is allowed during lectures and discussion, or in studios, darkrooms, and other laboratory areas. Cell phone light will ruin undeveloped darkroom photo paper – please do not ruin your work or the work of your classmates.

### Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

### Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

### Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)

### F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

### Writing/Plagiarism/Source of work submitted

All work submitted for evaluation must be the sole, original work of the student, except where explicitly allowed (for example, there might be a collaborative project, in which case you would identify your collaborators and the nature of the collaboration). By submitting work for evaluation you are attesting that the work is entirely your own work or fits into specified categories. In the case of creative appropriation of imagery, you are required to note on the work(s) in question the sources of the appropriation. Students may not submit photographs taken prior to the start of the term. All work submitted must be newly made for each project and must clearly explore the assigned technical and creative concepts.

### Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Student Union and Student Ombudsman**

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **Lockers**

The Art Building lockers are administered by the Students' Union in 251 MacEwan Student Centre. There are various shapes and sizes of lockers for rent. Please write down the barcode numbers (top left of each locker) for the locker shape that you require and bring this list with you to the SU office between 8:30a.m. and 4:30p.m., Monday-Friday. Lockers must be vacated by the end of term. For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

## **Models**

N.A.

## **Portfolios and Assignments**

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

All unclaimed work will be disposed of two weeks after the end of classes.

## **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

## **Campus Security/Safewalk**

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security—in case of emergency, press the red button.

**For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>**

## **Emergency Evacuation**

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.