

LARGE FORMAT PHOTOGRAPHY

Spring 2015 (PGY 4156)

Course Meeting Times: Monday/Wednesday (Periods 5-7; 11:45 am -2:45pm).

Meeting Location: Fine Arts Bldg. FAD 329, (unless otherwise notified)

Credits: 3

Course URL:

Instructor: Allen Chevront

Office: Fine Arts Bldg. FAD225

Office Telephone: (352) 273-3022

Office Hours:

Email:

Course description and topic:

This 3000 level Creative Photography course will explore the unique technical and aesthetic capabilities of the large format film camera, primarily utilizing 4x5" color and/or black and white sheet film as a capture medium. Students will acquire skills required to produce compelling and considered images using this age-old workflow. The loading of film, handling, processing, printing, and storage of these uniquely physical manifestations of the imaging process will be discussed early in the program.

You will then be assigned 4 primary projects to be produced using the view camera kits available to you for check-out. These assignments will be selected to illustrate to the instructor your technical and creative mastery of the large format equipment available to you. These assignments will be group critiqued, and active participation is required.

We will spend class time in demonstrations of the cameras and associated accessories included in the kits-including hand-held light meters, studio lighting, and film processing and printing in the darkroom.

After you have become comfortable with the view camera, we will explore some of the advanced features which, ironically, make the view camera at once one of the most primitive, and yet highly advanced still image making device ever created.

We will also consider some different options, and associated work-flows necessary for predictable outputting of prints from the negatives (and/or transparencies) you create: straight silver, darkroom produced enlargements or scanned film-to-digital and print on a large format Epson inkjet printer.

Course objectives and goals:

The successful completion of this course should provide valuable insights into both the practical aspects of operating a 4x5 view camera, processing and printing the resulting images, as well as an appreciation of the historical and creative foundation upon which the state of the art digital photography rests. You will learn to use the "movements" of the imaging elements of the view camera to achieve pictorial effects generally unavailable to the users of more conventional cameras.

You should also discover the challenges and pleasures of working with large and bulky, very mechanical cameras, with limited capture materials (2 sheets of film to each pre-loaded holder), external manual light metering, and the mastery of your photographic skills to determine correct exposure. This will require that you take a much more contemplative approach to photography than that to which you may have become accustomed. Images that you create should exploit the unique capabilities of this system, both technically and creatively.

While this is a technical class by necessity, a large part of your evaluation will be image-based. I expect you to illustrate your technical mastery of the medium, while producing compelling photographs which can withstand critical analysis. You will be required to discuss your personal aesthetic in relation to the work you produce, and your participation in all of the class reviews will be considered in your final grade.

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Readings, images, or other materials may be distributed by the instructor throughout the term. There will be specific assignment criteria included with the reading. Completion of this criteria is the responsibility of each individual student and will be factored into the student's grade.

Required Text:

Students are not required to purchase a textbook for this course. Students are encouraged to acquire readings recommended by the instructor, which may include selected internet resources, and texts available at the FA Library.

Grading and Evaluation (student requirements):

- Each student will be given a series of four major assignments and will receive an individual grade for work and research completed for each assignment. All requirements for the assignments will be outlined by the instructor. The topic for each assignment will be introduced by the instructor. Students will present work in progress during course meetings and completed work during schedule group critique dates. Students will present documentation of research on assigned dates. Students will refer to their individual research when presenting work during critiques and group discussions.
- Students taking this course are required to conduct visual and conceptual research relevant to the topics of the assignments of the course. This will require that each student do reading and visual research, conducting a significant amount of work outside of class. The instructor will assist each student's preparation for research. Students must provide organized documentation of this visual research during each of their four presentations to the group.
- All work handed in for this course is to be new, original work completed by the student. Previous work completed in other photography courses *may not be submitted in this class*. Further, the work completed for this course must be in relation to the course topics under investigation.
- Student grades will be determined by the quality and development of their visual work and their ability to meet the requirements listed above.

Attendance Policy:

- Students on this course will be required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving with all necessary materials and equipment to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving late to class or without assigned materials will be counted absent on that date.
- Undocumented absences from class will be marked as an absence. Arriving late to class will be counted as an absence.
- Students with more than 2 absences will have their SEMESTER AVERAGE altered by one letter grade. For example, 3 absences will result in the drop of a semester average from an A to a B. 4 absences will result in the drop

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of a semester average from an A to a C, and so on. *Please remember that a grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements.*

Missing Critiques/ Make-Up Policy:

Group critiques cannot be rescheduled. There will be no opportunity to make-up discussions that are missed, nor any presentation that is missed during class-time. Students missing class or critique must make an appointment with the instructor during office hours in order to acquire missing course input.

Class Demeanor Policy:

Students are expected to contribute in a positive and constructive manner. Any student purposely affecting the course negatively or another student negatively will be asked to leave the course and will be reported to appropriate university administration. The instructor anticipates that all students on this course will be supportive of one-another and patient with the difficult material they are engaging. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. Some examples of such behavior is outlined below:

Excused/unexcused absences: Please see attendance policy above. Additionally, any excused absence must be documented by a doctor's note and a copy of this note provided to the instructor.

Late arrivals: Please see attendance policy above. Additionally, it is each student's responsibility to be aware of the location for class meetings.

Cell phones: Cell phones and laptops may be used for class work including image production and visual research. Using phones, laptops, or other devices for social or non- course related business will result in the loss of the student's privilege to bring their laptop or phone to the class and lab meeting. **NO CELL PHONES ARE TO BE ON NOR TO BE IN USE DURING CRITIQUES.**

Late assignments: Please see Make-Up Policy above.

Food/drink:

Food and drink are not allowed in the photography lab areas at any time. This includes water! Drinks such as water, coffee, or soft drinks may be brought to the classroom FAD329 during class time. **PLEASE USE TRASH AND RECYCLE BINS** to dispose of your bottles, cans, etc.

Student Accommodation:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

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Letter Grade % GPA Equivalency:

A 4.0 A- 3.67 B+ 3.33 B 3.00 B- 2.67 C+ 2.33 C 2.00 C- 1.67 D+ 1.33 D 1.00 D- .67

*Please Note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements. UF grading policies can be found at: [Grading Policies](#):

Four Units: 20% X 4 assignments presented in group critiques (total 80%)

Participation in discussions, critiques, and demonstrations: 20%

Extra Credit: Extra credit options are worth two (2) percentage points added to your final semester average.

review grading at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Health and Safety:

You must read and understand the health and safety handbook to participate in lab classes.

The SAAH H&S policy and handbook is here:

<http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/>

you must also download, read, and sign the area specific photo lab rules:

http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/uploads/3/5/4/4/3544731/photography_area_rules.docx

http://saahhealthandsafety.weebly.com/uploads/3/5/4/4/3544731/signature_page_class.pdf

Academic Honesty Policy:

The University's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links: Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty> Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Student Conduct:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

UF counseling and wellness services:

University Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662 University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

