

# PHOTOGRAPHY: FIGURE/GROUND

PGY 2442C - SPRING 2015 – 3 CREDIT HOURS

## REQUIRED TEXT:

Liz Wells, Photography  
Reader,  
Routledge, 2003. ISBN 10: 0-  
415-24660

## MATERIALS LIST:

- Compressed Air
- 3 ring binder for contact sheets, filled with
- 35mm film storage sleeves
- plastic sleeves to hold your 8x10 or larger photographs
- Film: at least 14 rolls of 36 exposure (recommended: Ilford 400, Ilford HP5, Fuji Neopan)
- Darkroom paper: 8x10" or larger Ilford Fiber paper Pearl surface. You may use RC paper for test strips and contact sheets, but final prints will be on fiber paper
- Inkjet paper: Pearl, Semi-matte, or Lustre finish
- Portable external hard drive
- Digital SLR (recommended – several available through the photo area for overnight checkout)

Some of these materials may be purchased locally at:

Harmon's Photo  
(352)336-4008  
4111 Southwest 35<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Gainesville, FL 32608-2521

You can also purchase these materials online at:  
bhphotovideo.com  
adorama.com  
freestylephoto.biz  
keh.com

**MEETING HOURS:** 6 Hrs. T/R Periods 2-4 (8:30am – 11:30am)

**LOCATION:** FAD329

**INSTRUCTOR:** Joshua Hobson

**OFFICE HOURS:** T/R 2:00-3:00PM

**EMAIL:** [jjosher@ufl.edu](mailto:jjosher@ufl.edu)

## FIGURE/GROUND OBJECTIVE:

Figure/Ground endeavors to provide a critical understanding of both the formal building components and conceptual aspects of the photographic image. It will connect a myriad of separate studies to provide a stronger understanding of compositional and theoretical photographic studies. You will improve your understanding of photographic capture via components from wet darkroom techniques and processes branched into practical contemporary methods of image making; which will inform your practices into a comprehensive understanding of photographic concepts. Supplemental readings, articles, and essays will enhance your critical understanding of the various applications of photography in history as an art and cultural object.

## FIGURE/GROUND METHODS OF STUDY:

Each assignment and activity will build your photographic technique library. The first part of the course will focus on a review of your darkroom skills, concentrating on the basics of exposure, printing, contrast control, tonality and composition. We will review proper darkroom methods for developing film and obtain a necessary knowledge of darkroom chemicals, equipment, and tools. To bridge the gap between analog and digital components, we will produce digital images from film sources and translate our darkroom knowledge for use in digital editing applications. The full digital components will encompass a thorough demonstration of photographic RAW file editing and shooting procedures. You will learn how to properly produce true to screen photographic inkjet prints and process your imagery for optimum quality. Methods for digital manipulation will also be introduced for further means of image control. In addition to the four studio assignments students will complete reading responses, a photo-book review and a research presentation.

## FIGURE/GROUND COURSE UNITS:

### COURSE WEBSITE

E-learning will be utilized for this course and will include: updated weekly calendar (with due dates, special events and critique schedule), announcements, readings, and blog, project assignments. Please check this site daily (before each class) for supplementary resources.

### CONTACT SHEETS

One week after the assignment sheet has been handed out I expect at least two contact sheets ready for me to look at. This helps me to become better acquainted with your work and helps you stay on track with your assignment. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points from your assignment's grade.

## FIGURE/GROUND PROJECTS (tentative):

### PHOTOBOOK REVIEW/READING RESPONSES

### RESEARCH PRESENTATION

#### PROJECT 1 – WAYS OF SEEING

Make one photograph for each of the eight varieties of photographic vision listed by László Moholy–Nagy.

#### PROJECT2 – THE STATIC NARRATIVE

Construct a narrative within a single image or through multiple images. Utilize the full frame, outside the frame, camera position, subject position in relation to picture plane, etc.

#### PROJECT 3 – DIFFERENCE AND REPETITION

The photographic medium is ideal for highlighting similarities and differences among things through the creation of taxonomies or typologies. Create a series of images that utilize photography's unique capacity for documenting the world.

#### PROJECT 4 – PRODUCING THE REAL

Create a digitally collaged image that challenges the nature of the photographic image as 'real.'

#### FINAL PROJECT – OPEN PORTFOLIO

Produce a cohesive 15-20 image portfolio (digital or analog) on a topic or theme of your choice. The instructor must approve all project ideas.

## COURSE BLOG

One week after the assignment sheet has been handed out you are required to scan and post several prints and short artist statement on the class blog. This will help the other students' in-progress criticism. It will also produce more meaningful and insightful comments during the classroom critiques. Occasionally I will post discussion questions on the blog for everyone to weigh in on. Failure to post on the blog when required will result in a loss of points from your final grade.

## FIGURE/GROUND STUDIO EVALUATION AND GRADING:

20% Participation/Attendance  
10% Reading Assignments/Reactions  
50% Projects/Critiques  
20% Final Portfolio

Letter Grade and Corresponding Grade Points

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

Specific criteria for grading will be listed on each assignment sheet but will equally consider: adherence to the assignment parameters, research/studio practice, concept development, formal resolution, and craft/presentation. Late projects will be graded down a letter grade for each day they are late.

Generally project grades in this course are considered in the following way:

A	4.0	Exceptional work, all criteria of assignment have been surpassed in a distinguished manner and solutions to problems presented exhibit a depth of understanding. In addition, student is engaged in exceptional studio practice, which includes active research, looking up artists recommended, asking relevant questions about other artists' works or ideas, and being thoroughly engaged in the course content.
A-	3.67	Well-presented, superior work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed in a distinguished manner (including exceptional studio practice highlighted above). Minimal improvements could be made to the project overall.
B+	3.33	Very good work: all criteria of assignment were surpassed, minor changes could be considered and executed to bring piece together and studio practice was exceptional.
B	3.0	Very good work: above average solutions and clear potential. Most criteria of assignment were surpassed with some improvements to be made. Execution was well done. Studio practice during the project was commendable.
B-	2.67	Good work: most criteria of assignment were met. Work showed promise with a few significant improvements to be made. Studio practice was adequate.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic endeavors and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action to and including expulsion from the University.

Detailed Academic Honesty Guidelines may be found at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm>

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** 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. Disability Office — <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

**UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:** 352-392-1575  
Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center provides counseling and consultation services to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students and their spouses/partners. The Center offers brief counseling and therapy to help students confront personal, academic, and career concerns  
Counseling Center Web site: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>

**STUDENT HEALTHCARE CENTER:** <http://shcc.ufl.edu>  
For medical emergencies call 911.  
For urgent after-hours care, call 352-392-1161.  
For after-hours mental health assistance, call 352-392-1171.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY:**  
In an emergency call 911.  
University Police Department — <http://police.ufl.edu> — 352-392-1111

C+ 2.33

Slightly above average: work, most of the criteria of the assignment were met. The work is not yet a unified whole or cohesive statement, yet effort was made. Studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

C 2.0

Average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were met in a relatively routine way. Slippage in levels of craft, originality and presentation-studio practice was adequate, but could be more reflective and thoughtful.

C- 2.67

Slightly below average work: the assignment directions were followed and the requirements were minimally met, but there is much room for developing assignment's concepts further. The level of craft and breadth and depth of idea development needs to be improved. There is some evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking

D+ 1.33

Below average work: an attempt to solve the problem was made, but there is much room for improving skills and developing your concepts further. The criteria of the assignment are barely met. Basic craftsmanship skills have been neglected and there is a lack of breadth and depth of idea development. There is minimal evidence of studio practice, but the quality and quantity is lacking.

D 1.0

Inadequate, below average work: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.

D- .67

Unacceptable work and effort: the requirements of the assignment are not addressed. The execution of the work is careless and represents an incomplete effort. Work is substandard. There is little or no evidence of studio practice.

E 0

Unacceptable work and effort: the work submitted is inadequate; the requirements of the problem are not addressed. The piece represents careless and/ or incomplete effort. No evidence of studio practice. Work is substandard. Or, assignment was not submitted.

For more information: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>  
Students must earn a grade higher than C- to earn credit toward their major.

## FIGURE/GROUND CLASS DEMEANOR POLICY:

Student Conduct Code; Violations, Penalties and Procedures for Adjudication.  
<http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4016.htm>

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 students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distracting behavior. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will result in, at least, a request to leave class.

## ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all classes. You are required to work/participate the duration of the scheduled class period. Full participation by showing completed work during all scheduled critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** The Board of Regents and state law govern university policy regarding observance of religious holidays: Students, upon prior notification of their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Further, a student who is to be excused from class for a religious holy day is not required to provide a second party certification of the reasons for the absence.

**UNIVERSITY ILLNESS POLICY:** Students who are absent from classes or examinations because of illness should contact their professors. If you're unable to attend class due to illness, please email the teacher prior to class meeting time. Please state your name, class, as well as the reason you will not be attending class that day.

**EVALUATIONS:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**UF PHILOSOPHY:** The University of Florida is an institution that encourages the intellectual and personal growth of its students as scholars and citizens. As an educational institution, the University recognizes that the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, and the development of individuals require the free exchange of ideas, self-expression, and the challenging of beliefs and customs.

In order to maintain an environment where these goals can be achieved safely and equitably, the University promotes civility, respect and integrity among all members of the community. As stated in the Standard of Ethical Conduct, students are expected to exhibit high standards of behavior and concern for others.

Good attendance and punctuality are expected for this class and will affect your grade. Roll will be taken at every class and you will be considered late if you arrive after roll has been taken. Three “tardies” will equal one unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences will be allowed. The third unexcused absence will lower your participation grade by five points and so on. A total of five unexcused absences will result in you receiving zero participation points, unless you have a specific doctor’s note excusing you, or a prolonged illness that is documents.

This policy is consistent with university policies and can be reviewed here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**LATE WORK:**

All projects, reading responses, and research projects must be completed on time for full credit. Specific due dates are stated on each project sheet and are announced in class. Failure to complete any project on time will result in a drop of one full letter grade, and failure to complete any other assignment, in-class exercises, or other class work, on time will result in a drop of ½ letter grade for each day it is late. If the time line states that a project is due at the beginning of class, turning it in at the end or after class is considered late. You must have work finished before the start of class on critique days or your work will not be critiqued and your project grade will be lowered. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all work on time. Full participation by showing completed work during all critiques is required along with active participation through shared ideas and commentary.

**CLASS COMMUNICATIONS:**

Students must check their school email accounts regularly. Students are responsible for any information, deadlines, and updates emailed to their webmail accounts.

**CELL PHONES:**

Students should refrain from the excessive and disruptive use of cellular phones in the classroom and lab. Limited and productive use of phones will be permitted on a case by case basis.

**SA+AH HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

Please familiarize yourself the School of Art and Art History’s Health and Safety policies by reviewing the handbook here: (<http://www.arts.ufl.edu/art/healthandsafety>).

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Approved Calendar - 2015-2016 Academic Year

FALL SEMESTER 2015												SPRING SEMESTER 2016												SUMMER SEMESTER 2016											
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IDENTIFICATION SYMBOL:  
□ Classroom □ Lab □ Clinic □