

PGY 3444C—Black & White Photography
Monday & Wednesday 3.00pm—6.00pm
Fine Arts Building D, Room 329
Spring Semester 2018

Instructor: Anthea Behm

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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 2.00—3.00pm (and by appointment)

Course Description

This black and white darkroom course introduces students to the media by examining forms and politics of representation. The course is designed to facilitate critical thinking and questioning of representation not only in the photographic image (who gets represented and how), but also in the medium's written history and theory (who gets to tell the story). Through three studio projects facilitated by corresponding seminar readings, we will consider the stakes of representation within different forms of photography. This includes: documentary photography, representations of race, gender, and sexuality, concrete photography, experimental photography, and digital images. In so doing, we will critically engage with representation not only in our own work, but also in the work of modern and contemporary artists. We will also consider these questions in written histories and theories. The reading list for the course consists solely of women writing on photography. Through this process, we will begin to unravel suppressed histories and ways of looking.

Course Objectives & Goals

This course is divided into three sections corresponding with three projects. In the first section, we will investigate representation in pictorial photographs through creating a series of prints from 35mm negatives. The second section, on concrete photography (photograms), will be facilitated through a project where students make a series of photograms in conjunction with studio photographs. And the third section considers current stakes in contemporary art practice, and will correspond with a self-directed project where students can choose the form and topic of their work. Students are encouraged to explore the parameters of, and experiment with, both analogue (darkroom) and digital processes. By the end of the course, students will have developed a more advanced engagement with the stakes in the visual and written representation of photography, both in their own work and in how they think about it.

Individual meetings

Individual meetings will be conducted throughout the semester. During these meetings students will present their research and ideas and/ or work in progress. It is important that students show images/ objects/ sketches, etc., and not only discuss their ideas. During all meetings students will also discuss their plans and timeline for work. If these plans or ideas change, you must inform the instructor either through email or in person for approval. Failure to follow this procedure will negatively affect the project grade.

Assessment

Students taking this course will be evaluated through two elements:

(1) Studio Assignments [40% of grade]

Each studio assignment will be graded according to the level of engagement with the critical and conceptual goals of the project. Consistency of work, research efforts, and response to feedback will also be highly considered.

(2) Writing & Professional Practice Assignments [15% of final grade]

This component will be graded on level of engagement in the workshops and group activity, effort, and the ability to follow instructions.

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(3) Participation [35% of final grade]

Participation will be graded according to successful completion of reading assignments, leading seminars, as well as engagement in discussion. This includes listening and thoughtful expression of ideas.

Please see assignment sheet for detailed information. Late assignments will be marked down 5% for each day they are past due. Please note, to receive your final grade you must upload work completed for all assignments (including written, and documentation of studio work) on the Google drive (share folder with the instructor) by 5.00pm on Friday April 27, 2018. Please save videos as compressed .MOV (less than 250 MB) and images as high quality .JPG (less than 10 MB).

Class Attendance

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>

Students are required to attend every class meeting. Attendance includes arriving on time and with all materials and equipment necessary to actively participate in that date's discussion, lecture, or presentation. Students arriving without assigned materials will be counted absent on that date. Excused absences require legitimate reasons and documentation. In the case of an absence, students are expected to communicate this in writing (email), and in advance (unless extenuating circumstances prohibit doing so). At the discretion of the instructor, students who have more than three unexcused absences may receive a failing grade for the course. Additionally, a student's grade will be effected if s/he has an unexcused absence or does not present work on their designated critique day.

Digital Devices

Cell phones must be on silent and may be used only in case of emergencies. During seminars, laptops are not permitted unless required by discussion, which will be at the discretion of the instructor. Using any device for non-course related business will negatively impact the student's grade.

Grading Criteria

A: This grade is awarded for exceptional work that demonstrates critical thinking, a full realization of the ideas put forth in assignment, and outstanding engagement of both form and content; excellent amount of effort given to the class and assignments, with minimum lateness and absences; going beyond the basic course requirements through independent work and research; display a strong commitment to learning, being an active member of the class community, and growth as an artist and student.

B: This grade will be awarded for very good work that demonstrates a sound and competent realization of the ideas put forth in each assignment; excels in many areas but lacks one or more of the outstanding characteristics listed above.

C: This grade will be awarded for well-presented, average work that demonstrates a fairly good attempt at grasping the expectations of each given assignment. This work lacks a competent, comprehensive understanding mentioned in 'B' above.

D: This grade is awarded for inadequate work-- extremely poor and/or half-finished work with no care or attention to the assignment. In addition, when someone has missed three or more classes, has failed to complete one or more assignments, or keep up to date with the studio-based syllabus.

E: When someone stops coming to class and stops communicating with instructor. This is a severe grade and is usually given in severe circumstances.

Grading Scale

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A 95-100, A- 94-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77, C 76-74, C- 73-70, D+ 69-67, D 66-64, D- 63-60, E 59-0

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

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

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

Health and Safety

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

Each student must complete a Health and Safety Student Waiver for this course. These forms will be turned in to the School of Art office.

Health and Safety specific to Photography

- There are many hazards associated with photographic materials. Many photographic processes produce toxic gases. The gases could be produced from baths or storage of chemicals.
- Developers are highly alkaline and moderately to highly toxic. They can cause eye and skin irritations and are also allergic sensitizers.
- Stop Baths: The Acetic Acid in Stop Baths can cause dermatitis and skin ulceration. It can also irritate the respiratory system.
- Ammonia is especially hazardous to the eyes and the mucous membranes.
- Iodine can cause hypersensitivity reaction and skin burns when contacting the skin.
- Intensifiers can contain Mercury, Cyanide, or Uranium. Can cause lung cancer over a long time of exposure.
- Hardeners often contain formaldehyde, which is poisonous, very irritating to the eyes, throat, and breathing passages. It can also cause dermatitis.

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.

Class Demeanor Policy

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.

Academic Honesty

The university's codes for honesty and conduct will be upheld. Full information is available at the links below.

Academic Honesty: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty>

Honour Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

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

University Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662

University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

352-392-1575

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