

# PHOTOGRAPHY: FIGURE AND GROUND



PGY 2442C  
Tuesday + Thursday  
3:00 – 6:00 pm  
Fall 2025

Carrie Mae Weems  
*Mourning, from the series  
Constructing History  
(1976)*

**Professor:** Lindsay Carlton (she/her)

**Contact:** l.carlton@ufl.edu

**Location:** FAD 329

**Credits:** 3

**Office Hours:** by appointment only

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a hands-on exploration of black and white film photography, focusing on the dynamic relationships between subjects, environment, and artist. Students will learn how to shoot 35mm black and white film, develop film, and produce silver gelatin prints in the darkroom. The course emphasizes the skills of manual camera operation and darkroom techniques while also allowing students to explore the creative process of setting a scene, directing subjects, and building visual narratives.

**Note:** Students must have access to a 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) camera with a working light meter and a lens. There are a limited number of SLR cameras available for check-out in the FAD Cage, however these check-outs are limited to 48 hours at a time, so plan accordingly if you cannot purchase a camera for this course.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Learn to operate a 35mm manual SLR camera and make accurate exposures.
- Understand and apply basic film processing and darkroom printing techniques.
- Apply figure/ground principles to create strong visual & conceptual compositions.
- Explore photography as a tool for creative expression and artistic application.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS:

**Please note:** The links below are for Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). While this is *usually* the cheapest option, students are welcome to search elsewhere for materials at stores like B&H Photo Video ([www.bhphotovideo.com](http://www.bhphotovideo.com)) or Adorama ([www.adorama.com](http://www.adorama.com)).

### Camera and Film

- [35mm Manual SLR Camera \(with working light meter and full manual controls\)](#)
  - Recommended: Canon AE-1 or Pentax K1000
- [\(10 rolls\) Ilford HP5 Plus ISO 400 35mm Black and White 36 Exposure Film](#)

### Photographic Paper

- [Ilford Multigrade RC Black and White Photo Paper, 8x10, 100 sheets](#)
  - The link provided is for pearl finish, but any finish is fine.

### Mounting

- [Acid Free 11x14 Pre-Cut Mat Board Kit for 8x10 Prints, 25 pack](#)
- [Acid Free Lineco Self-Adhesive Linen Hinging Tape](#)

### Storage

- [Archival 35mm Film Negative Sleeves, 25 pack](#)
- [3-Ring Binder \(to store negatives, contact sheets, and handouts\)](#)
- [Archival Folio Box 11x14 \(to store prints and matted photos\)](#)

## REQUIRED TEXT:

All reading materials will be provided as PDFs via Canvas for students.

## ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate/work the entirety of the class period. Excused absences must be including documentation regarding illness, religious holidays, etc. If an absence occurs, students are responsible for making up missed work.

## LATE WORK:

Late work is accepted for up to half credit if submitted by the following class meeting.

**Please note:** This policy does not apply to projects/critiques, which are not eligible for makeup-up or late submission.

## GRADING SCALE:

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA
A	95 – 100	4.0
A-	90 – 94	3.67
B+	87 – 89	3.33
B	84 – 86	3.00
B-	80 – 83	2.67
C+	77 – 79	2.33
C	74 – 76	2.00
C-	70 – 73	1.67
D+	67 – 69	1.33
D	64 – 66	1.00
D-	60 – 63	0.67
E	0 – 59	0.00

## GRADING CALCULATION:

Assignment	Percentage
Projects	40%
Activities	20%
Quizzes	15%
Reading Discussions	15%
Attendance / Participation	10%
Total	100%

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Unit 1:** Elements and Techniques (Weeks 1 – 4)

**Unit 2:** Familiar Faces (Weeks 5 – 7)

**Unit 3:** Fleeting Subjects (Weeks 8 – 10)

**Unit 4:** Imagined Figures (Weeks 11 – 13)

**Unit 5:** Alter Ego (Weeks 14 – 16)

## **ACCOMODATIONS:**

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

## **CONTENT WARNING:**

In this course, we will cover content and materials that some may find difficult. I encourage you to let me know if you are struggling with content. You are free to step away at any point without penalty, but you are responsible for any work you will miss.

## **IN-CLASS RECORDING:**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of

format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student.

## **COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals at the end of the semester. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals or via <http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## **STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS:**

As your professor for this course, I am here to support you in the classroom to the best of my ability. However, if you need help outside of the classroom, the University of Florida has many resources that can support you.

### **The Counseling and Wellness Center**

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

P301 Peabody Hall

(352) 392-1575

Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm

### **U Matter We Care**

<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>

[umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) (352) 392-1575

### **University Police Department**

(352) 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center (352) 392-1161