PHOTOGRAPHY

COMMUNICATION 140

Introduction to Photography

Communication 140 is an introduction to basic camera functions and operations as well as photographic techniques. Students will learn, through lectures, labs and critiques, how to correctly operate a single-lens reflex camera, the accompanying accessories and how to produce black and white prints in the darkroom. Some colour applications are also discussed.

INSTRUCTOR:

Mitch Stringer
Office Y315 - Office Hours: by appointment
On Campus 1330-1630 hrs. Thursdays
On Campus 0900-1200 hrs. Fridays
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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Operate the basic manual functions of a 35mm. camera as well as a corresponding selection of accessories.
- Develop and print B+W film
- Assess a particular photographic environment and utilise the appropriate film, camera functions, accessories and darkroom techniques to obtain a final image.
- Create correctly exposed & developed, negatives & printed images that convey the photographer's ideas.

EQUIPMENT:

The following basic equipment will be supplied:

- One 35mm SLR camera
- A selection of lenses and accessories
- One roll of B+W film per assignment
- 100 sheets of printing paper
- Darkroom equipment
- Standard chemicals, mixed for use
- Lighting kits and flash units
- Tripods

*Special papers and chemicals or films, or small items beyond what is provided will be the student's responsibility.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

1. Primary Text (required): London, Barbara and Upton, John. Photography. Longman publishing.
2. References and magazines. See the library.
3. Handouts

COURSE CONTENT:

The course will be divided into three parts.

- Lectures (formal lectures, discussions, demonstrations & tests)
- Practical (in/out of class assignments, darkroom work)
- Critique (in class review and feedback of other students work)

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit I: CAMERA BASICS

- Loading film
- How the camera records the visual image
- Camera parts, their location & function
- Various types of photographic cameras
- What a shutter is and how it works
- What an aperture is and how it works (f-stop)
- ISO/ASA, what does it mean
- Focusing, focusing screen types
- The tripod, cable release, left eye/right eye, looking & seeing, note taking for every image
- Camera care

UNIT II: EXPOSURE CONTROL

- Reflective meters
- Centre weighted metering
- Average metering, 2 & 5 area
- Spot metering
- Evaluative metering
- Measuring light, what is the meter looking for
- Grey card readings
- 18% exposure values
- Exposure determination
- Incident meters
- Manual cameras
- Semi-auto cameras, aperture & shutter priority
- Program cameras, symbol programs
- Zone system metering

UNIT III: FILM

- Bulk film loading
- Film composition, B+W & colour
- Exposure vs. ISO
- Types of film, B+W
- Types of film, colour
- Developing B+W film
- Pushing/pulling film

UNIT IV: B+W PRINTING

- Print chemistries
- Contact printing
- Print enlargement
- Multigrade & polycontrast papers
- Print contrast control
- Burning
- Dodging
- Spotting prints

UNIT V: LENS SELECTION

- Lens construction
- Fixed focal length
- Zoom lenses
- Magnification
- Perspective
- Lens distortion

UNIT VI: FILTERS AND ACCESSORIES

- Skylight & ultraviolet filters
- Polarizers, top & circular
- Step ring
- Filters for B+W film

UNIT VII: CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY

- Reversal rings
- Close-up filters
- Macro lens
- Extension tubes
- Bellows

UNIT VIII: LIGHTING

- Ambient vs. electronic flash
- Flash sync.
- Manual & auto flash operation
- Fill-flash
- TTL/OTF flash operation
- On/off camera flash
- Bounce lighting with flash
- Reflectors & scrims

Unit IX: *COMPOSITION*

- Golden rule/rule of thirds
- Positive/negative space
- Perspective

ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be 6 assignments involving B+W film and prints. All assignments must be accompanied with an assignment mark sheet and complete notes for each image submitted, i.e. shutter speed, aperture, lens, film type, developing agent and time.

NOTE: Each assignment is worth 10 % of your final mark. Assignments "MUST" be turned in on the due date at the beginning of class. Late assignments will 'NOT' be accepted!

10 marks will be broken down as follows:

- 5 marks-technical proficiency i.e. correct exposure, print values
- 5 marks-composition, impact and/or originality

Critiques will consist of instructor and student feedback on:

a. Technical considerations;
b. Achievement of conception; and
c. Aesthetics.

EVALUATION:

Six assignments	@10% each	= 60%
Two tests	@10% each	= 20%
Final Exam		= 20%
Total		= 100%

Tests will be primarily objective and will stress factual data from lectures and readings. The assignments, on the other hand, will stress your ability to do practical work, i.e. take pictures, develop film, make enlargements etc. according to the specifications given you. Technical quality, conception, final product, including presentation, will be evaluated.

PROCEDURES:

Students may, up to one week in advance, book the film darkroom and the enlargers in the print darkroom. This space is for use by students only. The lab assistant on a regular basis will mix chemicals for you. It is to your advantage to keep the darkroom clean, and to follow established procedures to ensure that chemicals do not become contaminated or mixed up.

Note: The college facilities are not to be used for personal projects. We have stocked only enough materials for teaching purposes. There is none extra. Also, unless students make prior arrangements to the contrary, materials produced at the college belong to the college. You hold the copyrights.