

FA106 Beginners Black and White Photography: Made for a Party

Seminar Leader: April Gertler

Course Times: Thursdays 5 - 8.30pm

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Using the backdrop of Berlin, this class (named after a famous Hannah Höch piece from the late 1930s) will explore the history of photography by Berlin based photographers while learning how to use a manual camera and also finding one's way around an analogue darkroom through acquiring the technique of printing black and white photographs. The main assignments for the class will focus on 2 important and fundamental themes in photography: portraiture and landscapes. Camera techniques, shooting as much as possible and black and white printing will be the fundamental focus of the class.

Reading assignments will be given based on the aforementioned themes. You should be organized, able to work for long periods alone, and enjoy the process of creating images experimentally. You will need to devote a minimum of 4-6 hours per week outside of class time to finish the assignments.

Photography is a very time-consuming medium because practice makes perfect. Expect to make mistakes and to learn from them.

Requirements

Students are expected to participate in workshops, discussions, homework assignments which include printing assignments, and photographing outside of the classroom. Each student should expect to work in the darkroom and be shooting on average between 4-6 hours outside of class meeting times to finish homework assignments.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend ALL classes. More than two absences during the semester will lower your grade. Students are expected to attend any off-campus related classes where absence will affect grade.

It is advisable that students consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

If the student has to miss a class - It is required that the student send an email letting April Gertler know in advance.

Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be explained in class. The assignments, projects, and dates described in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in class and via email.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance: 25%

Class participation (includes both darkroom maintenance / cleaning): 25%

Assignments: 50%

Weekly Schedule*

*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as well as adjustments of content as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and / or deadlines. It is the sole responsibility of each student in this class to be in charge of getting their own film developed at the lab close to campus:

Das Foto (<http://www.dasgrossfoto.de>) Dietzgenstraße 39 - about 5 blocks from campus
Hours are: M-F: 9.30 - 6.30pm, Sat: 9.30 - 12.30

Throughout the semester, each student is required to drop off and pick up their own film at the lab.

February 2: Week 1

Distribution of cameras and film.

Tutorial on how to use an analogue camera.

Group trip to the lab near campus.

Readings handed out in preparation for next week's off campus meeting. Assignment #1:

Shoot one roll of film (due at the beginning of class on Feb 16)

February 9: Week 2

Meeting off campus for field trip about the history of Berlin photography (film will be handed out here as well)

Meeting location: corner of August Str. and Großer Hamburger Str.

February 16: Week 3

Beginning of class: Review and analyze shot film from Assignment #1 Introduction to the darkroom; how to use the enlarger, how to mix chemistry and how to make a contact sheet

Demo: Photograms! and making a contact sheet!

In-class assignment #2: Make a photogram! Make a contact sheet of your negatives! Bring some objects to class; fabric, anything thin and see through for the photogram
Readings handed out on how to make a print (preparing for next class's meeting)

February 23: Week 4

Review contact sheets from Assignment #2
Readings discussed on how to make a print
Demo: Make a print in class!

Assignment #3: Make 1-3 prints from the film you have have shot so far and please keep your test stripes to present when we review your print, in addition, write all relevant information about your printing and processing of your print on the back of your print with pencil
Assignment due March 2

March 2: Week 5

Assignment #3 due at the start of class!
Demo: Critique day - How do we critique a photograph? What to look for? How do we analyze composition?

March 9: Week 6 - PORTRAITURE

Discuss readings
Historical slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with portraiture
Assignment #4: Shoot 2 rolls of film of minimum 4 different people. Focus on portraying that person the best way you can. Print 1 print from each grouping of portraits you did. Four (4) prints will be due on March 30 at the beginning of class
Readings handed out

March 16: Week 7 - PORTRAITURE

Darkroom day!
Review readings
Historical slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with portraiture

March 23: Week 8 - PORTRAITURE

Darkroom day!
Review readings
Historical slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with portraiture

March 30: Week 9 - PORTRAITURE
Assignment #4 due at the beginning of class
Class critique of each student's work. Readings handed out

April 6: Week 10 - LANDSCAPE

Historical slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with landscape
Assignment #4: Shoot 2 rolls of film of minimum 4 different locations. Focus on portraying that person the best way you can. Print 1 print from each grouping of portraits you did. Five (5) prints will be due on April 27 at the beginning of class
Readings handed out

SPRING BREAK - April 10 - 14

April 20: Week 11 - LANDSCAPE

Review readings

Historical slide show of photographers from Berlin who work with landscape

April 27: Week 12 - LANDSCAPE Assignment #5 due at the beginning of class

Class critique of each student's work.

May 5: Week 13

Open Studio for Art department

May 11: Last day of class

It is required that all students attend the last day of class