

MEDAILLE COLLEGE  
AGASSIZ CIRCLE  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14214

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities

Course Number: ART 260

Course Title: Basic Photography

Number of Credits: Three (3)

Prerequisites and/or Special Consideration: None

**A. Course Description**

An introduction to the use of the still camera, light meter, film development, darkroom techniques and photo enlargement; a study of photo composition and use of the camera as an artistic tool.

**B. Goals**

Students will develop an understanding of artistic expression and be expected to master the technical aspects of basic black and white photography, camera use, and darkroom procedures, along with an understanding of the function of picture content.

**C. Objectives**

1. The student will be able to identify and describe the history of and development of photography equipment and changes in pictorial content and its usage.
2. The student will be able to evaluate and critique his/her own and other elements of photo work.
3. The student will be able to describe and utilize photo composition/subject matter/applications and functions of various pictorial content.
4. The student will be able to describe and identify different types of cameras and functions of each.
5. The student will be able to describe, identify and utilize types/characteristics/functions of films, papers, chemicals, equipment and support materials.

**D. Outline of Course Content**

The course will be divided into two aspects. One is technical and the other will stress the functions of the photograph, photography, and its applications.

- I. Introduction & History of Photography as an art form
  - A. Photography as art

- B. Creators of photography
- II. Camera
  - A. Anatomy of a camera
  - B. Major types
  - C. Camera controls
  - D. Handling techniques
  - E. Buying a camera
- III. Taking Pictures
  - A. Pictorial Evaluation
    - 1. Subject matter selection
    - 2. Composition
      - a. examples
      - b. rule of thirds
      - c. problematic situations
      - d. background, middle ground and foreground
- IV. Lenses (A very brief and basic discussion, as this area will be covered in more depth in advanced classes)
  - A. Purposes of
  - B. Types and differences of various lenses
  - C. Depth of field
- V. Exposure
  - A. Light and film
  - B. Light and paper
- VI. Film
  - A. Characteristics of film
  - B. The developing process
    - 1. How to process film step-by-step
    - 2. Use of chemicals and their effect on negative
    - 3. Time and temperature, and their effects on the film developing process
  - C. Exposure and development
  - D. Problems, defects and their solutions
- VII. Print Process
  - A. Exposure controls
  - B. Enlarging process
  - C. Characteristics of paper

D. Developing procedure

1. Step-by-step process through chemicals
2. Exposure controls for paper
3. Dodging and burning

VIII. Print Finishing

- A. Drying your prints
- B. Mounting
- C. Spotting and toning

IX. Evaluation of Prints or Critiques

E. **Suggested Texts**

Upton, John and Barbara London. Photography. Prentice Hall, 2002.

F. **Suggested Materials, Methods and Media to be Used**

35mm manual camera  
Photo Enlargers  
Black & White Processing Materials, Film and Paper  
Supply list to be given to students

G. **Instructor References:**

Adams, Ansel. The Portfolios of Ansel Adams. Boston: New York Graphic Society 1977.

Blaker, Alfred A. Photography: Art and Technique. California: W.H. Freeman and Co., 1980.

Coote, Jack H. Monochrome Darkroom Practice: A Manual of Black and White Processing and Printing. Boston: Focal Press, 1982.

Curtin, Dennis. Into Your Darkroom Step-By-Step. Somerville, Massachusetts: Curtin and London, 1981.

Davis, Phil. Photography. Iowa: Wm. C. Brown Co., 1973

David, Phil. Photography. Dubuque, Iowa: William C. Brown Co., 1982.

Dunn, J. F., and G. L. Wakefield. Exposure Manual. Dobbs Ferry, New York: Morgan and Morgan, 1975.

Eastman Kodak Co. The Joy of Photography. Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley, 1979.

- Feininger, Andreas. The Complete Photographer. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1965
- Hattersley, Ralph. Beginner's Guide to Photography. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1982.
- Horenstein, Henry. Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. revised, Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1983. (Also technical manual available).
- House, Suda. Artistic Photographic Processes. New York: AMPHOTO Books (Watson Guphill, n.d.
- Kodak Co., editors. Encyclopedia of Practical Photography. Garden City, New York: AMPHOTO (American Photographic Book Publishers Co.), 1977.
- Langford, Michael. The Master Guide to Photography. New York: Alfred A. Knopf Publishers, 1982.
- London, Barbara. A Short Course in Photography. Somerville, Massachusetts: Curtin and London, 1979.
- Lyons, Nathan, ed. Persistence of Vision. New York: Horizon Press, 1967.
- Lyons, Nathan, ed. Photography in the Twentieth Century. New York: Horizon, 1967.
- Neblette, C. B. Fundamentals of Photography. New York: VanNorstrand Reinhold, 1970.
- O'Neil, Doris C., ed. LIFE: The First Decade, 1936-1945. Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1979.
- Photographers Forum. The Best of College Photography Annual. California: Photographers Forum, Serbin, Comm.
- Rhode, Robert B., and Floyd H. McCall. Introduction to Photography. New York: Macmillan, 1976.
- Steichen, Edward, ed. The Family of Man. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1955.
- Sussman, Aaron. The Amateur Photographer's Handbook. 8<sup>th</sup> revised edition New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1973.
- Swedland, Charles. Photography: A Handbook of History, Materials and Processes. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1974.
- Szarkowski, John. Looking at Photographs. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1973.
- Upton, Barbara London and John Upton. Photography. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1981.

Time-Life Books, editors. Life Library of Photography. New York: Time-Life Books, 1972.

## PERIODICALS

Afterimage

*American Photographer*

*Aperture*

*British Journal of Photography* (U.K.)

Camera. C.J. Bucher Ltd., Lucerne, Switzerland.

Camera Arts

Creative Camera. International Federation of Amateur Photographers, London.

*Image*

*Industrial Photography*

Lens Magazine. New York: United Technical Publications.

Modern Photography. The Billboard Publishing Company, New York City.

*New York Photo District News*

*Photographer's Forum*

Popular Photography. Ziff-Davis Publishing, New York City.

U.S. Camera. U.S. Camera Publishing Corporation, New York City.

U.S. Camera World Annual. U.S. Camera Publishing Corporation, New York City.