

Riverside Community College
Photo 8 Introduction to Photography | Winter 2024
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*"Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communications,
offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution"*

- Ansel Adams

Syllabus

Welcome:

It's great to have everyone in Photo 8 this semester I hope you find this class inspiring. For many of you, this is your first photography class. We are here to learn the basics of the camera, but more importantly, *we are here to have fun*. Please come into the classroom with an open mind and be ready to use your creativity.

Remember to bring your camera to class every day, as this is your tool for creativity throughout this semester. To excel in photography, you must be on time, put forth effort, and *practice* by producing images. If you are not grasping any ideas or concepts about the camera, or you would like to learn more about any given topic, feel free to reach out to me during or after class, by phone or email. Only use technology to take notes in class and classroom related activities.

Course Description:

This course provides theory and practice in the basic techniques of producing B&W photographs with technical and artistic merit. Students will acquire competency in the use of 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras, photographic materials and processes associated with basic darkroom procedures. The understanding of photographic principals such as composition that you will learn this semester may be applied to any form of photography. Technical skills and understanding of aperture, shutter speed as well as film speed (ISO) may be directly applied to digital photography as well.

Academic Honesty:

You are expected to complete your own work in this class. If you plagiarize, use work from other students, or classes that you have previously completed, you will receive an "F" for the corresponding project. During quizzes and tests, you are expected to provide your own answers without aid from other students or copying from other students in class. You must comply by the academic dishonesty rules set forth by Riverside City College. For more information, please reference the "Standards of Student Conduct," listed in the Student Handbook. Students with more than one violation of the standards of student conduct in this course may receive an "F" in the course or be subject to other disciplinary action.

Special Needs:

If you have a documented physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, contact the staff in the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (951)222-8060 on the Riverside City Campus. The DRC will review your concerns and work with you to determine what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation that you share with the DRC is confidential.

Stress and Mental Health:

You can learn about RCC's confidential counseling and mental health services available on campus by visiting the student Health and Psychological services in the Bradshaw building or calling (951)222-8151. You can call the Riverside County 24-hour Crisis and Referral Line by dialing 211. The National Suicide Prevention Hotline is (800)273-TALK

Equipment:

Students should have access to a functioning 35mm SLR or DSLR film camera that can manually adjust shutter speed and aperture (often referred to as "M"). Your camera does not need to be modern, and there are many film cameras available on the used market. If you do not have access to a 35mm film camera, see the professor immediately.

Borrowing Equipment:

You may borrow a film SLR or digital SLR from RCC at no cost from RCC on a weekly basis. There is a chance, depending on the need of other students in the program, that you may borrow the film SLR for a longer duration. All equipment check out is through Nancy Carenen.

Approach to the Material:

A photograph can create an emotional response, document a fact, tell a story, suggest an idea, or illustrate a concept. Yet most people who wield a camera succeed only in creating snapshots that rarely motivate, inspire or instruct. In this course, we will be developing the skills, techniques and perceptions that will lead to better photographs and a clear understanding of the importance of the photographic process.

Attendance:

If you miss more than two consecutive class sessions, please be aware that on the third absence, you may be dropped from the class; however, this is not a guarantee that you will be dropped. Ultimately the responsibility to drop the class is yours. If you stop attending class and do not drop through the Admissions Office, I must submit a grade for you at the conclusion of the semester. If you have not submitted enough assignments or have enough test points, that grade must be an "F". An "Incomplete" contract can only be arranged for serious and unavoidable events such as hospitalization.

Grading:

All assignments are 10 points per image unless otherwise stated. This course is graded on the following scale:

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| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89%; |
| C | 70-79%; |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 0-59% |

Drop policy:

It is your responsibility to drop this class by the appropriate drop deadline set forth by Riverside City College if you do not plan to continue attending this course. Additionally, if you fall behind by three assignments, the professor has the option to drop you from this class. If you are having difficulty maintaining the submission deadlines, please see the professor before dropping this class, as accommodations may be made to extend deadlines if you have extenuating circumstances. If deadlines are changed, you will work out a written plan with the professor to complete your projects. Please note, the grade of "incomplete" can only be arranged with the instructor for circumstances with documentation that are not avoidable, such as hospitalization.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

Become competent in the handling of a 35mm film SLR camera and/or a digital SLR (DSLR) camera. This includes loading and unloading film, calculating exposures using the built-in light meter, familiarizing yourself with aperture and shutter speed settings and the using your camera to express your creative concepts.

Become familiar with the history of photography.

Gain experience in the darkroom with using enlarger controls for size variation and focusing the image and using filters to control print contrast.

Produce quality photographic enlargements of varying size with appropriate contrast control when necessary.

Demonstrate proficiency in processing black and white roll film to produce quality negatives.

Understand the basic concepts of composition and lighting and apply this knowledge when producing photographic prints.

Learn to appreciate the visual attributes of your surroundings and to pursue the wide variety of photographic possibilities that are available for future photographic exploration and expression.

Important Dates:

First Day of Semester: Jan 2nd

Holidays: Jan 15th

Last Day to Add: Jan 6th

Last day to Drop without a W: Jan 14th

Last day to drop with a W: Jan 30th

Last day of Class: Feb 6th

Photo Lab Notice:

The Photography lab will be closed during finals week