

PHOT G120: DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY 1

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	11/05/2024
Top Code	101100 - Cinematography
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	108 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 27; Lab Hours 81)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	Yes
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3 Arts and Humanities (GC)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU C1 Arts (C1)

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the historical and technical fundamentals of the processes, principles, and tools of film-based, darkroom photography. This course also introduces the development of personal artistic expression and visual perception. Topics covered include the development of technical and aesthetic skills, picture-taking techniques, darkroom printing techniques, elements of design and principles of composition, photographic materials and auxiliary equipment, and historical and contemporary trends in photography from a fine arts perspective. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Course Outcomes
2. Operate the manual controls on a 35mm camera and auxiliary equipment.
3. Use a variety of basic darkroom techniques.
4. Formulate criticisms of photographs utilizing photographic terminology and concepts.
5. Apply the elements and principals of design in a well-composed photograph.

Course Objectives

- 1. Produce photographs that utilize photographic tools, materials, and processes including camera controls, image exposure, image processing, printing, and presentation.
- 2. Employ exposure, dodging, burning-in, and cropping when printing an enlargement from a negative.
- 3. Apply the elements of design and principles of composition in finished photographs.

- 4. Create a portfolio of photographs demonstrating formal, conceptual, and technical development.
- 5. Analyze photographic images utilizing relevant terminology and concepts.
- 6. Examine historical and contemporary trends, language, and aesthetics in photography.
- 7. Operate auxiliary equipment such as light meters, filters, tripods, and wide-angle and long lenses.
- 8. Use photographic equipment and materials safely.

Lecture Content

Introduction to the darkroom Making a photogram Safe handling, maintenance, and appropriate use of photography equipment and materials Anatomy of a camera and auxiliary equipment Camera controls Operating the shutter Operating the aperture Loading and cleaning the camera Elements of design and principles of composition Historical examples of effective composition Film exposure and processing In-camera exposure Developing film Printing in techniques Dodging Burning-in Cropping Contrast filters Film characteristics Paper characteristics Filter characteristics For black and white film Concept development and project-based approaches to photography Group and individual critiques of photography Critical vocabulary Introduction to photographers and major photographic art movements Historical and contemporary trends in photography Historical and contemporary trends in aesthetics as it relates to photography

Lab Content

Camera controls, auxiliary equipment, and photographic tools Shutter Aperture Other manual camera controls Loading and cleaning of the camera Light meters Filters Tripod Wide angle and long lenses Other auxiliary equipment and tools Wet-lab film development and darkroom printmaking In-camera exposure Developing film Contact printing Photogram Materials and processes Film Paper Chemicals Compositional techniques and principles Elements of design Principles of composition Balance Rhythm Perspective Repetition Framing Image exposure Dodging Burning in Cropping Contrast filters Group and individual critiques

Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- Lab (04)

Reading Assignments

Articles, handouts, and textbook readings

Writing Assignments

Written assignments may include quizzes, essays, exams, or reports Students will write a critical review after visiting a photography exhibition using appropriate photography terminology including interpretations of meaning, references to art movements, and aesthetics

Out-of-class Assignments

Student will complete some photo shooting assignments outside of class Students will visit a photography exhibition and write a critical review using appropriate photographic terminology including interpretations of meaning, references to art movements, and aesthetics

Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Students will solve specific photo shooting assignments involving the principles of camera operation and around visual problems in the form of a successful print Students will critique each other's work orally

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Written assignments may include quizzes, essays, exams, or reports Students will write a critical review after visiting a photography exhibition using appropriate photographic terminology including interpretations of meaning, references to art movements, and aesthetics Students will create a portfolio of photographic work demonstrating formal, conceptual, and technical development

Eligible Disciplines

Photography: Master's degree in photography, fine arts, or art OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in art history or humanities OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

Textbooks Resources

1. Required London, B. and Stone, J. A Short Course in Photography: Film and Darkroom, 10th (latest) ed. Pearson, 2019 Rationale: - 2. Required London, B., Stone, J., and Upton, J. Photography, 13th ed. Pearson, 2025 Rationale: current edition