Intro to Photo • Prof. Leigh Kane • T/TH

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Office Hours: T: 11-3pm • Wed 11:30-12:00 • TH 11am-11:30pm or by appointment

Intro to Photo is an introduction to basic 35mm camera operation and handling, and to the techniques of b+w film and print processing. Within a fine arts context, we will examine photography as a means of personal expression, critical inquiry and communication.

**Required text**: Photography; London and Upton, 8th edition. One or two additional readings will be provided as hand-outs.

**Required Tools and Materials**

- 35mm. camera with some manual functions--focus, aperture & shutter speed--not fully automatic!
- b+w negative film: ~ Kodak Plus X (125) or Tri-X (400)  
  ~ Kodak T-Max* 100 or T-Max* 400  
  ~ Ilford FP4 Plus (125) or HP5 Plus (400) or Delta* (400)
- hand towel (kitchen towels from the grocery store are just fine) **YES, THIS IS REQUIRED!**
- film storage sheets: Vu-all or Printfile brand sheets (7 strips/5 frames across)
- b+w photo paper: ~ Kodak POLYcontrast RC-glossy, matt or lustre  
  ~ Ilford MULTIgrade RC-glossy, matt or pearl
- notebook to hold films sheets and contacts sheets
- china marker OR paint pen (yellow, gold, blue...) OR red sharpie, to write on contact sheets
- scissors (sharp & clean); • very fine (000) paint brush for spotting
- "Spotone" spotting dyes (borrow from a friend if you can...unless you plan to do lots of photo)
- matboard and drymount tissue (required, but not necessary until later in the term)
  **Optional**: 10 x 12 " or 12 x 15 " piece of 1/4" glass (buy rounded edges or tape it to prevent cuts)
- developing tank and reels for 35 mm film (metal or plastic)
- photo thermometer • soft, lintless cloth: either the kind you buy or a piece of a clean t-shirt

**Evaluation Criteria, Attendance and Grades**

1. Your photographic work in this class will be evaluated in two categories: **concept** and **technique**. Each assignment will include two corresponding components: an aesthetic/conceptual problem and a technical skill to acquire and develop. Based on your work in class and on the finished photographs you submit, I will evaluate the quality of your idea and your efforts to realize it, to bring it into form. I will also examine and grade your acquisition and use of specific technical skills. My classroom and critique commentary should make abundantly clear what areas need improvement, but you should not hesitate to see me during class or office hours if you have any questions!
2. Attendance is mandatory at all class sessions other than those announced as "print days". I do not repeat demonstrations, introductions to projects or slide lectures. You will be responsible for obtaining all of the information you miss from other students. Your grade will be lowered for two unexcused absences (no doctor's note).

NOTE: Are you here because it's a requirement or are you interested in DOING photography? One of the best ways to learn about photography is to LOOK at a lot of fine art photographs. Go to exhibits at galleries and museums. Easier still, visit the TR section of the library, frequently. Sit down with a pile of photo books and take a few out each week. Become FAMILIAR with the field

• 3 printing exercises (#1,2& 4) = Each 10%
• 2 printing projects: #3=25% #5, Final Project=35%
• Active participation in lab, critiques & discussions of readings-10%

Project due dates are firm; I do not grant individual extensions. Please have your work finished (according to the project guidelines) and ready to be discussed in the critiques. Work that is not READY TO BE DISCUSSED during the critique, will be graded down at least one full letter grade. Work submitted more than one week late, will lose two letter grades. Work may be RE-DONE and resubmitted for a new (averaged) grade only if the first submission was completed on time.

### Exercises/Projects

**Technical exercise**  
• Aesthetic/conceptual problem  
**Due date**

1. **Depth of Field**  
   - Time, Symbols, Proximities/Photographic Space, Abstraction & Ambiguity of Space, View of Humanity  
   - 2 Photograms + Contact sheet(s) + 2 D.O.F. prints  
   **Feb. 17**

2. **Contrast filters**  
   - Photographic Transformation of an Ordinary Object  
   10 prints (mounted according to the handout)  
   **Mar. 2**

3. **Spotting and mounting**  
   - TBA  
   4-8 carefully executed, full-scale prints, mounted for presentation  
   **Mar. 23**

4. **Experimental techniques** (use a min. of 2)  
   - Truth and Lie Self-Portrait  
   2-3 prints, mounted--with techniques listed on the back  
   **Apr. 6**

5. **Final project: Extended Photographic Inquiry/Building an Idea**  
   **May 4**  
   Options:  
   • A SENSE OF PLACE observe and explore a location; document its unique qualities— the physical, psychological and social aspects of a place  
   • UNDER THE INFLUENCE (or in the style) of an esteemed photographer, painter, sculptor, filmmaker or other artist, make photographic interpretations  
   • EXTENDED PORTRAIT OF A STRANGER get to know someone by using photography as a bridge between yourself and someone outside of your usual circle of friends or family.

Four requirements of the Final Project (each part counts toward your grade!)

A. Work in class (shoot 2 or more rolls of film, process film and print)
B. First contact sheets and 2-3 work prints, due for group discussion
C. Show presentation sketches to Prof. Kane; evidence of thoughtful exploration and inventiveness counts!
D. Minimum of 5 prints in presentation form (mounted, with titles if necessary, etc.)  

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