

Alternative Printmaking PHO 369

Meets 1.20.15- 5.15.15

MW 9:00a-11:50a Location: JOUR110 Hours: 3

Professor Vaughn Wascovich

office: J308

h/ by appointment

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“For me, the camera is a sketch book, an instrument of intuition and spontaneity.”
- Henri Cartier-Bresson

“To photograph is to hold one's breath, when all faculties converge to capture fleeting reality. It's at that precise moment that mastering an image becomes a great physical and intellectual joy.”
- Henri Cartier-Bresson, *The Mind's Eye: Writings on Photography and Photographers*

"Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... it remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything."

- Aaron Siskind

Description:

Alternative printmaking is an intensive 15-week class, which is a continuation of your education in the art program at TAMUC.

On a practical level, this course will teach you to historic and alternative methods of printmaking as well as alternative methods of image acquisition. We'll start by reviewing historic images from the late 19th century and see how they apply to today's understanding of contemporary thought in photography. We'll make

digital as well as analogue negatives, and use them to produce prints without using a computer. Iso, each student will make a working sliding box view camera!

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:

- a basic understanding of basic historic camera design and construction.
- basic understanding of tools and techniques used in an alternative wet darkroom.
- a working knowledge of several historic processes.
- a working knowledge of digital and analogue film production and processing.
- effective critique by participation in critical evaluation regarding your own work and the work of others.
- have an understanding of professional presentation.
- have submitted a weekly blog of commentary and assignments
- have entered photographs in no less than two competitive contests.

What's Expected of You, Generally:

Energy and enthusiasm in this class are vitally important, as is attendance. Please be prepared to share your experiences and ideas. Influences for discussion can come from anywhere: music, nature, writing, philosophy, personal experiences, etc.

Class discussion and peer review are very important for everyone as artists, and this class should function in such a way for you to get the most from your classmates. This should be a fun and rewarding learning experience for all of us, please work and participate actively and steadily.

You will also be utilizing a journal/blog as a means to clear your mind and gather your thoughts. Please plan on sharing this with the class.

Please come to class with a positive attitude, and respect for your peers and instructor!

Requirements, Specifically:

Each student will provide a blog of all their work for this class. Students will participate in class discussions, field trips and visiting lectures. If you are unable to attend a field trip, it is expected that you will attend the venue at some other

time and prepare a written summary for your blog. Students will need to turn in assignments on time and participate in group critiques.

This course is assignment driven, meaning that I'll be giving you specific assignments with specific deadlines. I will meet with each of you individually during the fifth and tenth week of class to discuss your project and progress.

Grades:

Your final grade will be based on class participation, attendance, and how well you complete the assignments. (70% of grade.)

You will develop a final portfolio based on your weekly projects, to be turned in the final week of class (30% of grade.)

Please make an appointment to see me during the fifth and tenth week of the semester, so that we can individually review your grades and your progress in the class.

Photography projects, blogs, websites and final portfolios are graded based on a number of criteria. Is the work turned in on time? Does it solve the problem posed by the instructor? Is the work well-crafted (are there spots or dust on the prints, are the borders even? Is the print contrast correct?) Remember, neatness counts!

In addition to craft, excellent work is content driven; that is, the print goes beyond being pretty and well crafted. Excellent work is about something!

The "A" student will have attended all classes and participated (in a meaningful and relevant way) in the class discussions. They will turn projects in on time, and those projects will be clearly superior to the majority of those presented. Often the excellent student will do more than asked and may raise questions that challenge not only the students but also the instructor. Please understand that just by attending all classes and turning in all work does not guarantee you an "A".

The "C" student will attend most of the classes and turn in a significant number of assignments on time. The work from the average student will look pretty much like the majority of work turned in; in other words it will look average. Average students contribute to class discussions, but may not do so consistently and/or with the same insight as the excellent student.

Please remember that the grade you receive is the grade you earn, not the grade that the instructor "gives" you.

Attendance:

All students are required to regularly attend class. Art is a practice-based discipline and the learning process requires active participation. Students will receive a failing grade upon their fourth absence. If you miss more than two

classes, you will be unable to receive a final grade of "A" for this course. Being tardy for class equals ½ of an absence. Being unprepared for class by not having an assignment on critique day or not having the appropriate materials to perform in class assignments will count as an absence.

Please turn your phones off before you come into the classroom.

You should expect to work AT LEAST 12 HOURS every week outside of class for this seminar.

Text:

Handouts. Web referrals.

Supplies: Although we have some working film cameras available to check out, it would be highly advisable that you provide a working 35mm camera for this class. Film cameras are widely available and at very reasonable prices. The first place to look is to ask your folks! Chances are, they have an old film camera in a closet somewhere. You'll also need to provide film for your specific camera. Plan on shooting at least two rolls a week for this course. Please see the detailed supply list, provided.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Statement on Student Behavior:

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) Students must show respect for the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If an instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students, who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42-46 of the Texas A&M University-Commerce student guidebook's Code of Conduct for details.

Statement on Accommodations for ADA eligible students:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact me, and

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library, Room 132

903-886-5150 or 903-886-5835

Fax 903-468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

One more thing. If your phone goes off, or I see you texting at anytime during class, you owe everyone pizza.