

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University
School of Education
Department of Fine Arts, Art Program
"The Educator as Service Professional"
Course Syllabus for Art 298, Spring 2011

This syllabus represents a contract between the student and the instructor for this course. The syllabus delineates essential details about the course, course content, and performance assessment. Any official changes to this syllabus will be made in writing and provided to each student. Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is subject to change with advanced notice in writing. Additionally, a student is officially enrolled in this course until such time as the university procedure for withdrawal from this course has been executed. Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with and for the duration of the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the Teach Act.

Students are responsible for confirming that the call number for the course is the number for the section in which they are actually registered and should be attending.

Course: ART 298-01

Title: Introduction to Photography

Call #: 12519

Credit Hours: 3

Location: Room 201, Morrison Building

Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm - 4:50pm Spring 2011

Instructor: Cara Fuller

Office: 202A

Office Hours: By appointment only

Email: cara@carafuller.com

Class Website: www.aamuphoto.com

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts: None

Suggested Reading: *Light and Lens* by Robert Hirsh
A Short Course in Photography by Barbara London & Jim Stone
Learning to See Creatively: Design, Color & Composition in Photography by Brian Peterson

Course Description:

In this class, students will learn the basic working methods associated with the use of a Digital Single Lens Reflex camera (DSLR) with an emphasis on principals of design in regards to composition. This course also include a brief introduction to traditional black and white photographic materials: pinhole cameras, the use of manual 35mm film cameras, chemical processing of both film and gelatin silver paper and enlargement of photographs. The culmination of all the above will be evident in the student's final portfolio.

Course Objectives and Major Topics:

- ° To ascertain greater knowledge of the medium's technical processes (S31aZ/I3A/P2.2)
- ° To develop a personal style of photography (S31aZ/I1A/P2.1)
- ° To develop a vocabulary for discussing fellow students' work(S31aZ/I6C, 8B/P1.1)
- ° To have knowledge of historic and contemporary artists working in the medium (S31aZ/I1A/P2.1)

Rationale/Relationship to the Conceptual Framework

This course represents a performance-based approach designed to enable the advanced candidate to become an educational service professional with knowledge, skills, and dispositions required by institutional, state, regional, and national standards. Through a constructivist design, learning will be facilitated by collaboration and feedback that should result in continual reflection and self-assessment. The ultimate outcome of this course is the further development of a skilled, highly proficient, advanced-level educational practitioner.

Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act):

Alabama A & M University is committed to serving the needs of students with disabilities, and the institution recognizes its responsibility for creating an instructional climate in which a student with disabilities can succeed. A student with a disability who needs academic accommodation should:

- (1) Register with and provide documentation to the AAMU certifying official in the Office of Disability Services to verify eligibility and to discuss the options for reasonable academic accommodations that might be available.
- (2) Provide a letter to the instructor indicating the type of accommodation that is needed.

This syllabus and other course materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to AAMU students with disabilities, please go to the Office of Disability Services in Room 203 of the Ralph H. Lee Student Center.

Classroom Management Policies:

Disciplinary procedures may take place at the University level if a student causes a disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other University activities on or off campus, including non-University activities, which occur on University property. Please read your copy of "Life on the Hill."

Participation:

You are expected to participate in class lectures, critiques and in the working environment. Due to different levels of familiarity with the medium among students, interaction is critical to promote creative problem solving and learning both inside and outside of the classroom. This is a hands-on course during which problems will be solved as they arise so the whole class can learn from each other's experiences. Failure to participate will result in a lowered grade.

Distraction:

The use of *cell phones, pagers, iPods*, or anything involving *headphones or telephones* is strictly *prohibited* during class time as it can cause a distraction and also prevent the collaboration that is vitally important in the comprehension of this subject matter. Much can be learned for your fellow students experiences, and to encourage this, *I will not be flexible about this rule.*

Attendance:

A student is permitted one unexcused absence for each credit hour generated by a class. *In the case of this class that is 3 absences.* Tardiness of more than twenty minutes will be considered an absence. *Critiques are a required attendance day* (it is the equivalent of missing a test), and an absence will result in a 25% reduction in your grade for the project being critiqued. Being absent on a critique day means you also forfeit your right to resubmit that project. Please talk to me at least two weeks in advance if there will be a known absence on a critique day.

Facilities:

Our darkroom and classroom is a community area for students and faculty working at this university. The equipment belongs only in this area, and *is not to be removed for any reason*. Equipment must be left clean, dry, and ready to be used by the next student. Failure to comply with the above will adversely affect your grade. *Abuse of the darkroom, classroom, and equipment within will not be tolerated and may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the course.*

Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Ethics:

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct that could result in such consequences as receipt of an "F" on a single assignment, failure in a course, and up to dismissal from the university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication of information

Materials:

Required:

- A Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera in working condition
- Memory Card

Nice to have, not required

- UV Filter
- Tripod
- Remote
- Jumpdrive

Course Outline: (This is subject to change.)

Class 1 (1/11): Lecture: *Introduction to Course*

Class 2 (1/13): Lecture: *Historical Backgrounds*

JANUARY 17 – DR MLK, JR HOLIDAY

Class 3 (1/18): Lecture: *Light, Aperture, Shutter Speed, ISO*

Class 4 (1/20): Demo: *Pinhole Cameras*

JANUARY 24 – Cara judges Huntsville Photographic Society's monthly competition, Minimalism, at 7pm at the Main Branch Library downtown. All are invited to attend! If interested, ask for more details.

Class 5 (1/25): Lab Day: Bring a medium sized box.

ASSIGNMENT: Get at least one good exposure with your pinhole camera and make a positive print in the darkroom. Due Class 6.

Class 6 (1/27): Lab Day: Bring your paper negative and make a print.

JANUARY 28 – Closing reception for *The Beauty of Imperfection*, an exhibition of teabowls by Jennie Couch and Monte McKnight, and *Natural Selection*, photographs by Cara Fuller. Third Floor exhibition space at Lowe Mill, 6-8pm. Ask for details if interested in attending.

Class 7 (2/1): CRITIQUE: *Pinhole Camera & Paper Negative* (50 points)

Class 8 (2/3): Lecture: *How Your Digital Camera and Film Cameras Both Work*

FEBRUARY 3 – JUNIOR AUDITS FOR GRADUATION DUE

Class 9 (2/8): Lab Day: *Exposure* - Bring your DSLR cameras to class. Wear sturdy shoes & be ready to be outside! Field Trip to the Railroad Museum on Chase Road.

ASSIGNMENT: *Railroad Museum* - Shoot twelve exposures on your shared roll of film. You will make a print in the darkroom of your best film-based shot. With your digital camera, shoot a minimum of 100 photographs, with careful attention to metering correctly and filling the frame. Due Class 14. (50 Points)

Class 10 (2/10): Demo: *Film processing/Printing* (Process your film over the weekend)

Class 11 (2/15): Lab Day: Come prepared to print your photograph

Class 12 (2/17): Demo: Archiving Digital Photographs. Using Bridge.

Class 13 (2/22): Lab Day: Come prepared to work

Class 14 (2/24): CRITIQUE: *Railroad Museum* - Critique of 1 traditional photograph printed to the best of your ability as well as looking through your favorite digital images. Turn in the print as well as 100 digital images. (50 points)

Class 15 (3/1): Lecture: *Shutter Speed & Aperture*

ASSIGNMENT: make 25 photographs using a slow shutter speed (small numbered) accentuating motion blur, 25 photographs using a fast shutter speed (high numbered) freezing motion, 25 photographs using a shallow depth of field (small numbered aperture) experimenting with foreground/background relationships as some things will be out of focus and 25 photographs using a wide depth of field (high numbered aperture) also experimenting with foreground background relationships but this time everything should be in focus. Due Class 16. (50 Points)

Class 16 (3/3): CRITIQUE: *Shutter Speed & Aperture* – Critique of photographs made exploring aperture & shutter speed. (50 Points)

MARCH 5-11 MIDTERMS

Class 17 (3/8): Lecture: Vantage Points

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot at least 100 photographs making photographs from anywhere but eye level. The range of three to six feet off the ground is strictly off limits. Due Class 18 (50 points)

MARCH 14-18 SPRING RECESS (NO CLASSES)

Class 18 (3/22): CRITIQUE: *Vantage Points* – Critique of photographs made anywhere but eyelevel looking or straight ahead. (50 Points)

Class 19 (3/24): Lecture: *Night Photography*

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot 100 night photographs. Due Class 20 (50 points)

Class 20 (3/29): CRITIQUE: *Night Photographs* - Critique of Night Photos. (50 points)

Class 21 (3/31): Lecture: *Creative Seeing in Portraits*

ASSIGNMENT: *Portraits* – Shoot at least 100 portraits. Due Class 22 (50 Points)

Class 22 (4/5): CRITIQUE: *Portraits* - Critique of Portraits. (50 points)

Class 23 (4/7): Lecture: *Photojournalism & Documentary Photography*

ASSIGNMENT: *Picture Stories* - Photograph two of your own picture stories, taking 50 pictures for each (so 100 photographs total). One story should be sequential in nature and the other story tells of an entire situation. Due Class 24 (50 Points)

APRIL 11 – Cara is giving a lecture about Large Format Photography at the Huntsville Photographic Society meeting, 7pm at the Main Branch Library downtown. All are invited to attend! Ask for details if interested in attending.

Class 24 (4/12): CRITIQUE: *Picture Stories* -- Critique of two sets of 50 photographs each. (50 points)

Class 25 (4/14): Lecture: *Meanings Behind Photographs*

ASSIGNMENT: *The Adjective Project:* Pick 5 adjectives (descriptive words, not nouns or verbs) and take 20 photographs depicting the meaning of each single word. Don't tell anyone your what your adjectives are! Due Class 26 (50 points)

APRIL 18 – LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES

Class 26 (4/19): CRITIQUE: *The Adjective Project* -- Critique of at least 5 well-printed images depicting the meaning of a word. Turn in prints, film and contact sheets for grading. (50 points)

Class 27 (4/21): Lecture: *Cohesive Bodies of Work*

ASSIGNMENT: Take at least 250 photographs to further explore the subject you find yourself most interested in. You will need twenty superb images that are all cohesively unified to create a solid body of

work. You also must write a 250 word artist statement to be submitted as a Word file (.doc or .docx) at the same time as your final project.
Due Class 30. (300 points)

APRIL 22 – HOLIDAY OBSERVED

Class 28 (4/26): Demo: *Cutting Mats & Framing Photographs*

Class 29 (4/28): Lab Day: Come prepared to cut your mat

APRIL 29, 30 MAY 1 – Panoply Art Festival (Huntsville, AL) Artist marketplace to include work by Professor Cara Fuller, Alumni Bob Gile, and current student Monte McKnight. Admission \$5, in Big Springs Park downtown. Ask for details if interested in attending.

Class 30 (5/3): FINAL CRITIQUES-- For Final Critique, have twenty of your favorite images organized into a folder separate from the other 230 images. Also turn in your artist statement as a Word file (.doc or .docx) (300 points)

Class 31 (5/5): FINAL CRITIQUES-- Continue
RESUBMISSIONS DUE

FINAL CLASS MEETING: May 10th 2PM

Grading Opportunities:

Pinhole Cameras & Paper Negative (Due Class 7):	100 points
Railroad Museum (Due Class 14):	100 points
Shutter Speed and Aperture (Due Class 16)	50 points
Vantage Points (Due Class 18)	50 points
Night Photographs (Due Class 20):	50 points
Portraits (Due Class 22)	50 points
Picture Story(Due Class 24):	50 points
Adjective Project (Due Class 26)	50 points
Final Critique (Due Class 30 or 31):	300 points
Class Participation	200 points
<i>Total:</i>	<i>1000 points</i>

Grading Scale:

900 – 1000 points	90%-100%	A	600 – 699 points	60%-70%	D
800 – 899 points	80%-90%	B	Below 599 points	Below 60%	F
700 – 799 points	70%-80%	C			

Please Note:

- Being unprepared for critique and turning the project in late will result in a 25% reduction in your grade for the project in question. This is addition to the 25% reduction mentioned above. University-issued excuses are the only way of receiving full credit unless you have notified me of a known absence one week in advance.
- There are *no* extra credit assignments.
- You may *resubmit any project* in an attempt to raise your grade. All resubmissions will result in a higher grade *only* if the work turned in is superior to what was initially turned in. You must turn in the original along with the updated version. Resubmissions will NOT replace points lost due to missing critiques or late submissions. All resubmissions are due Class 31, but can be turned in at any point prior to that day.