

PHOT-121: BEGINNING DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Justification for this inactivation request

Course has not been offered in over three years.

Effective Term

Fall 2026

CC Approval

10/03/2025

AS Approval

10/09/2025

BOT Approval

10/16/2025

COCI Approval

02/23/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Photography (Master's Degree)	Or
Photographic Technology/ Commercial Photography (Any Degree and Professional Experience)	

Subject Code

PHOT - Photography

Course Number

121

Department

Photography

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Beginning Darkroom Photography

Short Title

Beg Darkroom Photography

CB03 TOP Code

1012.00 - *Applied Photography

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

D - Possibly Occupational

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This beginning course in traditional photography methods is designed to teach basic skills in black & white printing. This course provides guidance in film processing, use of laboratory equipment and chemicals, traditional darkroom printing and presentation techniques.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Advisory Prerequisite(s)

Completion of PHOT-120 with a minimum grade of C.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Activity Hours

108.00

Outside of Class Hours

54

Total Contact Hours

108

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

No

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Translate concepts and experiences through images.
2. Demonstrate proficiency in the technical skills required of photography.
3. Demonstrate proficiency the aesthetic skills required of photography.
4. Present finished portfolio for peer, professional or academic review.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Choose films, papers and chemicals appropriate to lighting conditions.
2.	Utilize basic sensitometric concepts to achieve adequate negative densities.
3.	Explore a personal photographic style and expression..
4.	Acquire skills used to critically evaluate photographs.
5.	Develop and maintain a quality photographic portfolio.
6.	Recognize and understand photographic expression from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
7.	Demonstrate techniques used for print manipulation in the conventional darkroom.
8.	Cameras and society
9.	Camera exposure and light metering systems (manual to automatic).
10.	Camera controls: the film sensitivity, shutter, and aperture relationship
11.	Exploration of major Photographic genres
12.	Elements of Composition.

Course Content

1. Appreciate the historical development of the camera and the process of photography
2. Film types and applications
3. Camera controls: the film sensitivity, shutter, and aperture relationship.
4. Lenses: types and functions.
5. Film Development: Theory and Technique
6. Historical evolution of black and white photographic process.
 - a. Selection of black & white films
 - b. Film processing techniques
 - c. Analyzing negatives
7. Apply aspects of composition and design for effective visual communication
8. Introduction to the Photographic Darkroom
 - a. Selection of photographic papers.
 - b. Use of enlargers
 - c. Making a Proper Proof Sheet
 - d. Making a Straight Print
9. Techniques of Photographic Print Making and Tonal Control
 - a. Use of contrast control filters
 - b. Local controls: dodging and burning
 - c. Print flashing and bleaching
 - d. Print spotting and correction of other common print blemishes.
 - e. Using toners for coloration and preservation of black & white prints
 - f. Archival issues of film, print
10. Dry mounting, matting, framing
11. Contemporary Styles and Techniques
 - a. Fine art, documentary, photojournalism, scientific and technical, digital.
 - b. Diversity of cultures and backgrounds.
 - c. Elements of creativity, personal style, expression, presentation.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Lab	
Other	There are a variety of methods for instruction according to the instructor's teaching style. If the course is administered as an inverted classroom model then podcasting would be the primary means of disseminating basic information. In class methods could include group discussion to further explore the material presented. If the lecture model is employed then in class lecture would replace the podcasts. In any event, class discussion, peer critiques, individual student/teacher critiques, group projects and individual projects should be employed. Blogging as an eportfolio is strongly recommended as a reading/writing component in addition to self reflection.

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Portfolio of finished photographs based on in-class assignments that demonstrate successful application of materials, concepts, and techniques covered in this course.
Class Participation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After an introductory podcast lecture and demonstration covering the process of print contrast control using filters, create images that use this technique to fine tune the contrast of prints. 2. Participation in critiques, class discussion, and studio maintenance. <p>For example: After an introductory lecture and review of handouts containing key formal and critical terms, students will participate in a work-in-progress oral group critique. Students will be assessed for participation, proper use of terminology, and relevant comments regarding basic formal and material issues. Overall performance in critiques throughout the semester will be figured into the final grade.</p>
Quizzes	Portfolio of finished photographs based on in-class assignments that demonstrate successful application of materials, concepts, and techniques covered in this course.
Other	Portfolio of finished photographs based on in-class assignments that demonstrate successful application of materials, concepts, and techniques covered in this course.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

1. Selected readings from text, periodicals, and instructor-generated handouts.

For example:

Read and prepare to discuss "How to Do Things with Pictures" by William J. Mitchell. Read the handout covering key formal and critical terms used in content-oriented critiques.

Writing Assignments

1. Each Project has as a component a 'Thoughts and Reflection' section. As a requirement for the projects, students must write in their journals what the objective of the project was and cite and elaborate how the image(s) produced satisfies the Project objective.
2. Performance assignments.

Example: Students will produce and present 30 prints which emphasize visual communication skills and creativity; Five skill assignments emphasize specific techniques such as proper application of contrast filters and localized dodging or burning; five Interpretive assignments challenge the students' ability to explore expressive and symbolic possibilities with the medium.

Outside-of-Class Assignments

The student is required to produce a final portfolio project of eight mounted and matted prints reflecting the knowledge and skills acquired in the class.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials**Material Type**

Textbook

Author

Barbara London

Title

Photography

Edition/Version

10th

Publisher

Prentice Hall

Year

2011

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

Film, photographic printing paper, matte board, \$20 lab fee.

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity**Course Codes (Admin Only)****CB00 State ID**

CCC000189606

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No