

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for PHTO 50

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

Effective: Fall 2011

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PHTO 50 — INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY — 3.00 units

Introduction to the history and development of photography, basic process, various types of cameras, materials, basic shooting, processing, developing, and printing of photographs.

2.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Studio Lab

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	36.00
Studio Lab Hours:	72.00
Total Hours:	36.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. discuss the history of photography and its various vocational and avocational applications;
- B. demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of the photographic process from the forming of the image and the exposure of the film, to the reproduction of a photograph by means of contact printing and enlarging;
- C. demonstrate a thorough understanding of the essential mechanisms of the camera and the functional relationships of those mechanism;
- D. show a working knowledge of various photographic materials, including film printing paper and photo chemistry;
- E. develop properly black and white film, and make contact prints and enlargements from these negatives;
- F. exhibit through proper handling of equipment, facilities and materials, an awareness of and adherence to the skills and discipline necessary for reasonable success in photography; and
- G. spot and dry mount black and white photographs.

V. CONTENT:

- A. The Camera
 1. Basic camera construction
 2. Basic types of cameras
 3. Lens and camera care
 4. Camera controls
 - a. Panning
 - b. Stop action
 - c. Blurring for motion
- B. Exposure
 1. Basic types of meters and metering techniques
 2. Equivalent exposures
 3. Depth of field
 4. Exposure/development relationships
- C. Lenses
 1. Focal length
 2. F numbers
 3. Basic types of lenses
- D. Light Sensitive Materials
 1. Films
 2. Papers
- E. Basic Photo Chemistry
 1. Basic function of chemicals
 2. Developer
 3. Stop Bath
 4. Fixer

- 5. Hypo Clearing Agent
- F. Composition
 - 1. Basic guidelines
 - 2. seeing photographically
- G. History of Photography
 - 1. Brief survey of the development of Photography
- H. Flash Photography
 - 1. Electronic flash units
 - 2. Calculating flash exposure
 - 3. Flash accessories
- I. Mounting and Presentation
 - 1. Print spotting
 - 2. Dry mounting
 - 3. Window mats

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Audio/Visual Materials
- C. **Critique** - in-class
- D. Laboratory Demonstration
- E. Selected Readings

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Collect and provide written critiques on examples of excellent photography based on criteria developed in class discussions
- B. Shoot an entire roll of film divided among four different subjects: each approached in both vertical and horizontal formats, and each from close, medium and long range, using a 'normal' 50mm lens.
- C. Find a landscape or cityscape location to shoot at early morning, midday, late afternoon, and at night. shoot six different views of chosen location at each of the four times of day.
- D. Photograph the same single person in different settings and with different lighting conditions, including artificial bulb and flash lighting, and in each case include direct, bac, and shear lit situations.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Other:
 - a. classroom critiques after each assignment in which students work with instructor to determine at least five criteria appropriate to the given assignment and apply them to oral critique of photographs submitted.
 - b. Written quizzes and exams, with topics to be covered using:
 - 1. Subjective questions--Compare, contrast, show or cite examples, explain similarities and differences
 - 2. Objective questions--using multiple choice
 - 3. Object questions--using fill-in sentences
 - 4. Short answer essays

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Classroom critiques at the conclusion of every class
- 2. Quizzes at the conclusion of each unit, approximately 6 times per semester
- 3. Exams, midterm and final.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Landford, Michael, Anna Fox, and Richard Smith *Langford's Basic Photography*. 9th ed., Focal Press, 2010.
- 2. London, Barbara and Jim Stone *Short Course in Photography*. 8th ed., Prentice Hall, 2011.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Black/white Film--Kodak Plus-X, Kodak Tri-X, Kodak T-Max 100, or Ilford FP-4.
- B. Photo paper--Mitsubishi RC, 8"x10" gloss, or Ilford Multigrade RC 8"x10" glossy.
- C. An anti-static cloth or a blower brush or hurricane blower.
- D. Negative pages (one for each role of film shot).
- E. A pair of cotton gloves.
- F. An absorbent cotton hand towel.
- G. 35 mm camera; one that accepts interchangeable lens preferred.