

# Course Syllabus

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**Department** : Photography  
**Course Title** : Photography I  
**Section Name** : ARTS\_2356.613  
**Start Date** : 8/22/11  
**End Date** : 12/19/11  
**Modality** : Face-to-Face  
**Credits** : 3.0

## Instructor Information

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**Name** : Beckwith Thompson  
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**OC Phone #** : 432-335-6497

## Course Description

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Introduction to the basics of photography. Includes camera operation, techniques, knowledge of chemistry, and presentation skills. Emphasis is on design, history, and contemporary trends as a means of developing an understanding of photographic aesthetics. The student will assess and select equipment, supplies, and techniques to incorporate basic theories of film, exposure, development, filters, and printing. Students will use efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply creative knowledge to communicate with others. Lab fee required.

## Prerequisites/Corequisites

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None  
[Scans](#)

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4, 8, 9, 11

## Course Objectives

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### 1. COURSE PURPOSE:

This is a studio course introducing the possibilities of photography as an artistic medium. Topics include a multicultural historical focus on photography as a 20 th century artistic

medium, application of fundamental photographic theory, methods, materials, equipment and techniques, black and white film processing and printing, aesthetic and ethical issues and processes of digital photography and computer manipulation of photographs. Problems include organization and direction of field assignments and the use of photographs as a medium for artistic expression.

## 2. COURSE GOALS:

Photography I is designed to extend each student's basis of visual knowledge, critical thinking skills, and working disciplines already developed in design and drawing so that by the end of the semester he or she will:

- a. possess a higher level of perceptual awareness
- b. have translated perceptual awareness into plastic form
- c. have demonstrated confidence in and strategies toward individual creativity
- d. have demonstrated sensitivity for the psycho-physiological ?language? of photography
- e. have demonstrated knowledge of contemporary and historic artistic models
- f. have demonstrated knowledge of art as cultural information
- g. have performed exercises in visualization and critical thinking
- h. have performed refined, higher level technical practices

- A. Fundamental photographic theory and history of photography.
- B. Film processing and darkroom printing.
- C. Black and white shooting and developing.
- D. Aesthetic and ethical issues in photography including the manipulation of photographic imagery.
- E. Terminology and vocabulary development relevant to becoming visually literate.
- F. Critical thinking strategies for analyzing works of art history and evaluating photographic works done in the classroom.

## COURSE COMPETENCIES:

1.0 To demonstrate competency in applying darkroom safety practices; the student should be able to:

- 1.1 \*demonstrate compliance with darkroom and equipment safety rules
- 1.2 \*appraise work area and equipment for safe working

environment

1.3 \*identify and correct safety hazards

1.4 \*demonstrate compliance with safety rules for working with photographic materials

1.5 clean and maintain work area and leave in a safe condition

1.6 \*identify and report problems to supervisor

2.0 To demonstrate competency in performing record keeping activities; the student should be able to:

2.1 clean and maintain work area and leave in a safe condition

2.2 describe problems to supervisor

2.3 create and maintain records

2.4 \*interpret specifications on job ticket

2.5 \*prepare requisition for photographic supplies and materials

3.0 To demonstrate competency in conducting darkroom operations; the student should be able to:

3.1 summarize customer question

3.2 \*solve customer problems

3.3 organize equipment inventory list

3.4 composes photographic release form

3.8 appraise copyright laws

3.9 \*prepare a darkroom for a working session

3.10 criticize photographic work

3.11 \*create portfolio of photographic work

3.13 \*prepare photographic work for display

3.15 \*create method to store and transfer cameras and accessories

4.0 To demonstrate competency in performing camera work; the student should be able to:

4.2 select camera and film for job

4.3 select camera and lenses for job

4.4 select camera and accessories for job

4.5 select and use tripods

4.6 select and use filters

4.7 \*distinguish aperture and set F-stop

4.8 \*distinguish and set shutter speeds

4.9 \*predict exposure and set timer

4.10 select film exposure using 35mm camera

5.0 To demonstrate competency in calculating exposure settings; the student should be able to:

5.1 \*distinguish light readings using exposure meter

6.0 To demonstrate competency in performing basic darkroom work, the student should be able to:

6.1 \*prepare darkroom and arrange equipment

6.2 mix photographic chemicals

6.3 \*produce black and white film negatives using daylight tank

6.6 \*prepare loaded film canisters

6.7 \*appraise darkroom problems

7.0 To demonstrate competency in producing black and white prints, the student should be able to:

7.1 \*produce a proper exposure of black and white paper for enlargements

7.2 make a proper exposure for a contact sheet

7.3 make a proper exposure for a contact print

7.5 \*produce a dodge and burn-in image during printing

7.6 \*produce a vignette image during printing

7.7 use a diffuser to create image during printing

7.8 clean negatives

7.9 \*computes exposure for black and white print using test strips

8.0 To demonstrate competency in processing photographic papers, the student should be able to:

8.1 mix stock solutions for paper

8.2 \*produce a black and white print using trays

8.4 \*produce an archival print

9.0 To demonstrate competency in finishing and mounting prints, the student should be able to:

9.1 \*produce a toned print

9.4 \*create a dry mounted print

10.0 To demonstrate competency in cleaning / maintaining a darkroom, the student should be able to:

- 10.1 clean darkroom sinks
- 10.2 clean darkroom trays and mixing utensils
- 10.3 \*appraise mechanical components of cameras
- 10.4 clean photographic lenses
- 10.5 \*prepares dust free darkroom environment
- 10.6 \*prepares darkroom equipment for work

11.0 To demonstrate competency in converting traditional photographic images into digital files, the student should be able to:

- 10.1 scan with a flatbed device
- 10.2 scan with a film scanning device
- 10.3 \*appraise image quality for intended outcome
- 10.4 \*prepare digital files for email and quality print output
- 10.5 \*prepare a CD as a storage device of digital files for portfolio images

\* Indicates integrated Core Curriculum Skills (Math, Reading, Communication, Technological Literacy and/or Critical Thinking)

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\*\*\*\*\*send webtests to: bathompson@odessa.edu & include your email address on the webtest when you send

Pop Quizzes will be randomly given in class.

LEARNINGOUTCOMES: After completing the course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in: 1.0 applying darkroom safety practices; 2.0perform record keeping activities; 3.0 conduct darkroom operations; 4.0performing camera work; 5.0 calculate exposure setting; 6.0 perform basic darkroom work; 7.0 produce black and white prints; 8.0 process photographic paper; 9.0 finish and mount prints; 10.0 clean and maintain a darkroom; 11.0 convert traditional photographs into digital files

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:** Projects: 70%; Participation: 20%; Quizzes / Midterm: 10%. The final grade for the class is based from the combination of shooting assignments, exam grades, participation in the critiques, and the portfolio. There will be written quizzes and a mid-term exam covering the technical aspects of photography. Your shooting assignments will have two grades. The top one is for the technical aspect (how well the picture is printed) and the bottom grade is for the aesthetic aspect (how well the picture relates to the assignment). Please note that all shooting assignments must be completed. And any late work will automatically be lowered ONE letter grade. That means IF your work is truly A quality work, the highest grade you can make if it is late is a B, which is still preferable to a zero. If you hand in your work on time, you can redo assignments. Toward the end of the semester you can redeem a day by doing extra quality work. We will routinely have class critiques as a way of reviewing and improving work. You will be graded on the work that you are presenting, your presentation and your active participation in the critiques of other students' works. A portfolio is required at the end of the semester. The portfolio will consist of the shooting assignments, preferably reprinted or any substitutes you wish to make to improve your grade.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** YOUR attendance is the single greatest predictor of your success. Student attendance at every class is expected. Three or more absences will result in the lowering of your course grade by one letter. The number of times you are tardy or leave early is also noted for the analysis of your final grade. Please see the instructor regarding anticipated absences or conflicts due to college sponsored activities. Again, please note that late assignments will be graded down one letter grade. Effective Fall Term 2010, student absences will be recorded from the day the class meets. Regular and punctual attendance in all classes and laboratories, day and evening, is required. Students who are absent for any reason should always consult with their instructors. Also, both tardiness and early departure from class may be considered forms of absenteeism. In all cases, students will be held responsible for completion of course requirements covered in their absence. Additionally, it is the student's

responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance. Course instructors establish policy with regard to attendance in their respective syllabi and may drop a student for excessive absences. Absences are counted regardless of whether they occur consecutively. Students who stop attending class for any reason should contact the instructor and the college registrar to officially withdraw from the class. Students may be required to consult with an advisor or designee before dropping. Failure to officially withdraw may result in a failing grade for the course. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw officially from a class by submitting a completed Withdrawal Form to the Registrar's Office.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: You are expected to create, edit, process and print your own assignments and take tests without notes or other outside assistance. All work is expected to be your own.

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### Required Readings/Materials

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a) You must purchase the following *required* readings/materials:

THIS CLASS IS A FILM CAMERA CLASS using a black and white film wet darkroom process. You must own, buy or have use of a manual capacity 35mm FILM camera that can swap out lenses. Information below in the Notes section regarding lenses. A point and shoot camera without the capacity to swap out lenses is not permissible. A cell phone camera is not permissible. A digital camera is not permissible. The department has some older cameras available for checkout, though these are also used for replacement cameras when students send off their camera to be fixed. Students are responsible for any checkout equipment.

\*\*\* ( Note: older editions with a different ISBN are also available and can be bought or borrowed.) PHOTOGRAPHY , Barbara London, Prentice Hall, 2010, 10th Edition,

\* ISBN-10: 0205711499 \* ISBN-13: 978-0205711499

SUPPLY LIST FOR BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY 1 100 foot roll of Kodak Tri-X 400 film. \*\*If only 50 foot rolls are available, you will need two 50 foot rolls of film. OPEN ONLY IN THE DARK. Any other kind of

film is not permissible as our lab chemistry is set up for Tri-X. 5 reusable film canisters (I suggest that you get a few more as they are inexpensive and allow you to have more rolls rolled and ready to be exposed)

1 16 x 20 sheet of WHITE foam core or poster board 1 package of clear plastic negative files 1 small bottle of lens cleaner and lens tissue paper 2 large hand towels (can get old ones from a thrift store) 1 combination lock (need 1st week of classes) 1 roll of masking tape 1 thin black Sharpie marker

CAN BUY LATER

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\*\*\*\*\* 1 100 sheet box of Ilford Multigrade IV RC DELUXE paper in the Pearl surface (need by 4th week of classes) OPEN ONLY IN THE DARK. You can get a 25 sheet box at first, though it will cost more in the long run. 2 thin accordion style (not slippery) folders with stretch band and flaps (Dollar General type store)

CAN BUY EVEN LATER

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1 10 Bookstore)

0000 spotting brush package of Seal brand dry mount tissue

11x14 archival mount boards (also available at the OC

NOTES

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These photo supplies can be easily found at either :

D & D Photo ph: 552-0131 2121 E. 42nd (behind Walgreens).

Odessa Camera ph: 550-0211 4400 Tanglewood (behind Music City Mall).

Some of you may be purchasing your first camera for this class.

There are countless quality cameras on the market and I suggest that you look and price carefully. Some retailers and manufacturers offer a package that includes a zoom lens instead of the 50 mm lens. Regardless of what model of camera you purchase, please consider that while zoom lenses do offer variable focal lengths from 35 mm to 80 mm to 105 mm, they do not provide a wide aperture size. This may require the use of a flash or a tripod when a 50 mm lens would allow you to hand hold the camera. Also, zoom lenses are not as bright, so they are difficult to hand hold and focus in low light situations. Plus a zoom does not offer a depth of field scale on the lens. In the beginning, I suggest you avoid a zoom.






## Grading Policy

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**METHOD OF EVALUATION:** The final grade for the class is based from a combination of shooting assignments, exam grades, participation in the critiques, and the final portfolio. There will be written quizzes and a mid-term exam covering the technical aspects of photography. **Please note that all shooting assignments must be completed. And any late work will automatically be lowered ONE letter grade.** That means IF your work is truly “A” quality work, the highest grade you can make if it is late is a “B”, which is still preferable to a zero. If your work is average (“C”), then the highest you can make is a “D”. If you hand in your work on time, you can redo assignments. We will routinely have class critiques as a way of reviewing and improving work. **You will be graded on the work** that you are presenting, your **presentation**, and your **active participation** in the critiques of other students’ works. A portfolio is required at the end of the semester. The **portfolio will consist of** the shooting assignments, **preferably reprinted or any substitutes** you wish to make to improve your grade.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** YOUR attendance is the single greatest predictor of your success. **Student attendance at every class is expected. Four or more absences will result in the lowering of your course grade by one letter.** The number of times you are tardy or leave early is also noted for the analysis of your final grade. Please see the instructor regarding anticipated absences or conflicts due to college sponsored activities. **Again, please note that late assignments will be graded down one letter grade.**

**ACADEMIC ETHICS:** You are expected to create, edit, process and print your own assignments and take tests without notes or other outside assistance. **All work is expected to be your own.**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Learning Resource Center (Library)

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian " service provide additional help.

### Student E-mail

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

### Student Portal

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

Technical Support For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

Important School Policies For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or student's and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.