Syllabus

ASTU 3502.501 Darkroom | Fall 2021

Instructor: Shellye Tow

Office hours: Thursday 11:00am-12:00pm in our classroom

Meeting times and Location: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00am-10:50am Room 358 CVAD

E-mail: shellitatow@my.unt.edu

Communication: Please only email from an official UNT email or through canvas. I will respond to emails within 2 business days.

Description:

Advanced course with instruction in film-based photography, exposure, and darkroom printing. Through assignments, lectures, demonstrations, and critiques students gain competency in analog photography, archival darkroom printing and film-based photography in relationship to contemporary art and photographic practices.

Prerequisite(s): ASTU 2501, ASTU 2502 and selection through the entry review (any concentration)

Content / competencies:

1. Black and white film processing
2. Pinhole and Photograms
3. 4x5 View camera
4. Darkroom printing
5. Print finishing - spotting, matting, and dry mounting
6. Introduce film scanning - Flatbed
7. Reading/ Theory.
8. Writing project statements

Grading:

- Technical assignments - 40%
- Final project and assignments - 50%
- Quizzes and midterm - 10%
A = Excellent (100-90%)

B = Above Average (89-80%)

C = Average (79-70%)

D = Inferior (69-60%) [passing but not necessarily satisfying degree requirements]

F = Failure (59% or below)

Late Work / Make-up Policy

Late work may be subject to a penalty of 10% deducted from the assignment’s value per day the work is late, unless the student provides proof of an acceptable mitigating circumstance: serious illness, death of a family member, or other circumstance if approved by the instructor.

Technical assignments with a grade lower than a 70 may be repeated once. Resubmission must take place within 1 week of receiving your grade. Any assignment resubmitted after 7 days will not be graded. Assignments are required to be submitted on time- a late assignment cannot be resubmitted.

Class Participation Expectations

- Attend every class meeting.
- Responsible for completing all of the required assignments inside and outside of class.
- Participate in class discussions, contributing ideas and perspectives on topics or art.
- All your work should incorporate aspects or issues addressed in class in relation to your personal or professional interests.
- Each class period we will have an in-class quiz. This helps to review class material. The quiz will cover our ongoing class material. If you are not in class, the quiz will not be accepted for a grade. You make take the quiz for review, but it will be entered as a zero.
- Maintain classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, you are prohibited from using earbuds, cellular phones or beepers, checking your email or surfing the internet, updating your social networking sites, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or magazines, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class, which will be counted as an unexcused absence.

Attendance Policy
• Regular and punctual attendance is mandatory.
• Three absences will be tolerated.
• More than three absences will require a note from a doctor or a note from the art office excusing the absence for a reason covered under UNT policy 06.039 (Student Attendance and Authorized Absences) in order to be counted as excused.
• More than 3 absences will lower your final grade by one letter grade per additional absence (4 or more)
• Assignments that are turned in late will receive one letter grade lower per day for each day they are late.
• Critiques missed may not be made up and grades will reflect the student’s failure to participate in the critique discussions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (Links to an external site.) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn (Links to an external site.)

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Equipment and Supplies
Required: You do not have to use my links It is to help finding materials easier

- 100 sheets of GLOSSY paper RC or FB
  - FB is optional. You can start with RC then switch later.
  - optional small pack of FB is recommended for final, but optional.
  - 8x10 paper only
  - Ilford RC 25 pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Ilford RC 50 Pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Ilford RC 100 pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Ilford FB 100 Pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Ilford FB 25 Pack (Links to an external site.)

- 4x5 black and white film 50 sheets minimum
  - Ilford 25 pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Ilford 100 pack (Links to an external site.)
  - Kodak 50 pack (Links to an external site.)

- Binder (UNT will provide film holders that will be placed in binder)
- Clamshell/ portfolio - 1 for storage, 1 for submission
- Mat board- for mounting and matting
- Hinging tape
  - https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/125575-REG/Lineco_L533_1015_Linen_Tape_Self_Adhesive.html

Recommended/ Optional:

- White gloves
- Anti-static cloth
- Apron
- Small level
- Measuring tape
- Rag/ small towel

Health and Safety Program

Students are required to follow the Department of Studio Art Health and Safety guidelines and are required to complete training for each studio course. The goal of the Studio Art Health and Safety Program is to protect the health and welfare of all faculty, staff, and students and to cooperate with the University of North Texas' Office of Risk Management. Please visit the website for details and the departmental handbook: https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.).
Health & Safety

Health & Safety Area Specific Information: Photography

1. Hazards of Materials

There are many hazards associated with photographic materials. An effort to minimize the hazards associated with photographic chemicals begins with the understanding and following of darkroom rules and procedures, and with familiarity with the Material Safety Data Sheets and proper handling and disposal of these chemicals.

Stop Baths: The acetic acid commonly found in stop baths can cause dermatitis and skin ulceration and can severely irritate the respiratory system. Contamination of the stop bath by developer components can increase inhalation hazards.

Fixers: Fixer contains sodium thiosulfate, sodium sulfite and sodium bisulfite. It may also contain potassium aluminum sulfate as a hardener and boric acid as a buffer. Fixer solutions slowly release sulfur dioxide gas as they age. However, when these solutions are contaminated with acid from the stop bath, the gas sulfur dioxide is released at a more rapid rate.

Hardener: in most darkrooms, hardeners are added to fixer for use in film processing. Although we do not use hardeners at this time you should be familiar with the hazards. They often contain formaldehyde, which is poisonous, very irritating to the eyes, throat, and breathing passages, and can cause dermatitis.

Fixer Removers: also known as Hypo Clear or Perma Wash. Many hypo eliminators are skin and respiratory irritants. Some are corrosive to skin, eyes, nose and throat.

Toners: toner usually involves the replacement of silver with another metal such as gold, selenium, uranium, lead, cobalt, platinum or iron. These highly soluble toxic compounds are more dangerous since they can be readily absorbed in the body and immediately affect internal organs. We do not use toners of any kind.
This is not an exhaustive list of all the types of chemistry that is used in darkroom work, nor does it cover all of the risks. Please familiarize yourself with the chemistry you will be using by reading all instructions associated with their use, and their corresponding MSDS sheets.

2. Best Practices

The darkroom is a shared workspace filled with expensive, sensitive equipment and corrosive chemicals. How you conduct yourself directly effects both you and your fellow students. It is very important to take care of equipment, and safely handle chemicals for both your safety and the safety of others. This is a lab and cleanliness is important for safety. This includes keeping darkroom equipment and finishing areas separate from chemicals hence designated dry and wet areas. Different chemicals have different ways they are handled and disposed of, and these are clearly outlined on signs in each area.

The following points are a guide to basic darkroom safety and etiquette. To use these facilities, you must adhere to these safety guidelines and always leave the darkrooms clean and orderly.

- Know the locations of all exits, emergency eye and body wash stations, fire extinguishers, MSDS sheets, emergency spill kits and the H&S safety station. A first aid kit is available in the H&S station.
- Never place trays or chemistry on enlarger stations or on dry areas. Dry areas include enlarger stations, drying racks, cutting areas, finishing areas, light tables, and worktables.
- Never place darkroom equipment, paper, negatives, or personal belongings on wet areas. Wet areas include the stainless sinks in the darkroom, the counter and sinks in the film processing/print washing room, and anywhere chemistry is used. It is important that you do not place any wet materials in the dry area.
- Do not leave your equipment or university equipment unattended.
- Wear nitrile gloves, chemical aprons, and safety goggles when using hazardous materials. Nitrile gloves are recommended for film processing and printing.
- Tong use is mandatory for printing. Be sure that you are using the properly labeled tongs for each tray and rinse if you contaminate them.
- Avoid splashing or spilling chemicals. Immediately wipe up any spills, splashes or dribbles. Chemicals dry into a powder and become airborne, contaminating all areas of the darkroom and may get on your clothes, shoes (in which case you will carry the chemicals home) or in your lungs.
- Always use a plastic tray to transport wet prints, and avoid dripping chemicals on the floors, if your print has not been washed for 30 minutes, then it is contaminated
with chemicals. Wet floors mean you may get chemicals on the soles of your shoes and transport chemicals to your home.

- If a splash occurs and affects you bodily, flush affected areas (15-20 minutes for eyes) immediately with water using the eyewash station.
- The following may not be poured down the drain: fixer, potassium bichromate. Both have specific waste collection containers and policies.
- Rinse all lab ware and trays before and after use with hot water. Return items to their proper place, and invert to dry.
- Keep the darkroom uncluttered and free of chairs, backpacks and stools to avoid tripping hazards in the dark.

Links for Safety

- MSDS sheets can be found here. https://untphotolab.wordpress.com/msds/Area
- Health & Safety Rules

All users of the studio classrooms are expected to follow studio area rules at all times. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

- Follow all CVAD Health and Safety handbook guidelines (the handbook should be reviewed by your instructor and can be found here: https://art.unt.edu/healthandsafety
- Follow the CVAD Waste Management Chart in the classroom and other health & safety guidelines posted
- In case of emergency, call campus police at (940)565-3000 or call 911
- File an incident report (forms may be found in the CVAD H&S handbook and in the main office) within 48 hours of the event
- Do not prop classroom doors. Doors are to remain closed to ensure the building HVAC and ventilation work properly
- No food or drink in the studio
- There is absolutely no food or drink allowed in the darkroom at any time.
- Your class and experience level determine the level of your darkroom privileges and access to certain equipment and processes.
- Be mindful and respectful of all darkroom rules and procedures, designated wet and dry areas, and use properly labeled equipment appropriately.
- If you cross contaminate chemistry or an area, please inform an instructor, lab tech or student worker immediately.
- If you do not know how to use a piece of equipment or are unsure of proper procedures please ask someone.
- Do not use force on any piece of equipment.
- Clean up after yourself- wipe down surfaces.
- Do not block doorways or block access to lights.
- Do not remove furniture from rooms or borrow furniture from rooms without permission.
• If something breaks, please tell the lab worker or a Faculty member immediately.
• You must leave enough time at the end of open lab or class time to properly wash your prints, clean up, and return equipment.
• Do not create “daisy chains” with multiple electric cords.
• No hazardous materials down sinks.
• Store all flammables in the flammable cabinet. Keep flammable cabinet closed at all times.
• First aid kits are found in each studio. Notify your instructor or technician if supplies are low.
• Report any safety issues IMMEDIATELY to your instructor.
• All courses must engage in an end of the semester clean up.

Lighting Studio

The lighting studio is a shared space with its own set of rules. It is most important that you respect the time you have signed up for, especially during the busy hours. It is also important to keep the area clean and orderly. If you take an item from the closet, you want to make sure you return it to the same place. You also want to create a space for yourself to work in that is not cluttered with cords.

• If anything breaks for any reason, please let the lab worker on duty know immediately.
• While the studio is a space that can be used by many people, there are some pieces of lighting equipment reserved for students who are enrolled/have completed the Advanced Lighting Techniques. It is always better to ask if you are not sure if you can use a piece of equipment or not.
• All lighting that needs to be plugged in must be plugged into one of the power strips in the studio. Never plug anything but a power strip into the wall.
• When using the C-Stands it is important to understand how heavy the equipment is and you want to make sure you are using the sandbags to weight the stand down.
• Make sure you are keeping the cords clear.
• Never mix water and electricity. If you are photographing a liquid, make sure you are careful to keep it away from the equipment.
• *When you are changing the light modifiers, be careful of the flash tubes.
• Do not put heavy object on the cyclorama.
• Do not use the scissor lift.
• Make sure the studio is as clean as it was when you found it.

Academic Integrity
According to UNT Policy 18.1.16, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**ADA Accommodation**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13 and 14 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

**Incomplete Grade**
An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule.

In consultation with the instructor, complete a request for an Incomplete Grade. This form can be found on the department website and must be turned into the department chair prior to the last day of classes (not the exam date). Note: A grade of Incomplete is not automatically assigned to students.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment & Assault**

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. UNT’s Student Advocate can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.