HU 2631 Fundamentals of Photography
Syllabus - Fall 2008
Instructor: Brian Parmeter
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HU2631, Fundamentals of Photography, will introduce you to the basics of black and white film photography.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend and participate in class discussion and lab demonstrations.
2. Complete all tests and assignments.
3. Read all relevant chapters in textbook: The Ansel Adams Guide
   Basic Techniques of Photography, Book 1, John P Schaefer (Little, Brown, and Co., 1992)

Grading:

The course is comprised of three main sections: 1-Technique, 2-Visual Literacy, and 3-Photo Essay. Your final grade will be the average of the three section grades (30% each) - the remaining 10% will be based on attendance and participation in class discussion.

In addition to practical photographic projects, there will also be numerous writing assignments. Written assignments should be typed with your name and the assignment title at the top of the page. All photo assignments should be delivered in an 8.5 x 11 envelope with your name and assignment title clearly indicated. Assignments turned in after 5:00 pm on the due date will be docked one letter grade. No assignments will be accepted more than three working days after the due date (except with medical documentation in the case of legitimate illness).

There will be one quiz in section 1, and a final section exam for sections 1 and 2.

Section one: Technique

This section will be hands on. You will learn:
   the basic operation of your camera and lens(es) (Schaefer text chapters 2 and 3)
   film design and theory (chapter 4)
   how to properly expose and process film (chapters 6 and 7)
   how to make contact sheets and prints. (chapter 8)

Section two: Visual Literacy

This section will familiarize you with the basics of photographic composition and the language of photographic critique.

Section three: Final project - Photo Essay

The topic for your final project, a photo essay, will be determined no later than week 8. The due date for the final project is Friday, December 12th, 4:00pm. I'll provide detailed instructions/requirements on the Photo Essay as we begin the section on Visual Literacy.
Calendar:

Week 1 General class info and an intro to 35mm slr cameras

Week 2 Lenses, Depth of Field, Shutter speeds (film development demo/Bill Allard video)

Week 3 Intro to Film, (film development demo/Bill Allard video)

Week 4 Exposure Calculation

Week 5 Technique Quiz (Printing demo/Mary Ellen Mark video)

Week 6 Discussion of Final Projects (Printing demo/Mary Ellen Mark video)

Week 7 Technique Final, begin Composition section - Rule of Thirds/Center of Interest

Week 8 Line

Week 9 Perspective

Week 10 Texture & Contrast

Week 11 Balance & Proportion,

Week 12 Critical Moment, Form

Week 13 Composition Final

Week 14 TBA, Final Photo Essay due Friday, December 12th, 4:00 pm

I reserve the right to alter the calendar in order to accommodate the needs of the class.

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*Presenting others’ work as your own or failing to appropriately credit resources is plagiarism, which can lead to academic probation or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about this issue, please talk to me or consult with a coach in the Writing Center at 487-2007.