



Art 244 Black & White Photography 1
(Darkroom)
Curt Steckel

1. COURSE INFORMATION

3 Credit Hours – Fall 2025
No Course Prerequisites
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 – 11:45
Art and Design, Room 221

2. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor Contact Information
Office: 785.628.4216
casteckel@fhsu.edu (I try to respond within 24 hours)
Contact Procedure: through school email
Office hours: Appointments by request // Monday & Wednesday 10:30-1:30
<https://calendly.com/casteckel/office-hours>

3. TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

No Required Textbooks.

Manual Analog 35mm SLR (single lens reflex) camera. Standard is a 50mm lens. The camera should have manual controls for controlling the aperture and shutter speeds. Often family members will still have one in a closet that you could borrow.

- 9 rolls of film
- 1 box of 8x10" printing paper (50 or 100 sheets)
- 3 ring binder (2-3 inch)
- 35mm Negative Sleeves for film

Estimates for bare minimum printing if everything works out perfectly...

- 32 prints for projects
- 9 contact sheets at 8x10"
- Some prints will be 5"x7" and some will be 8"x10."

Sketchbook or notebook for taking notes and developing ideas for projects.

4. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The professor will at times have film and paper on hand for students to purchase in emergencies. This is not covered by the lab fees for the course, and payment will be collected in the main office in room 119.

This course is an exploration of the medium of darkroom (analog) photography. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of analog camera functions, developing black and white film, and silver gelatin printing.

5. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate knowledge of 35mm analog cameras, film processing, and darkroom printing.
- Analyze photography with an awareness of historical and contemporary issues.
- Effectively analyze and discuss photographic images.

6. TEACHING, LEARNING METHODS, & COURSE STRUCTURE

There will be a range of assignments that will be used to evaluate skills and knowledge. Some exercises will be done during one class period, while other projects will take several weeks to complete, with progress checks along the way.

QUALITY & PROBLEM SOLVING

Success in class will be reflected in the commitment you put into the work and clarity of your ideas. It is about controlled skills in using the materials to get the desired results. Art is about the process of discovery and how you guide yourself through it. Experimentation is paramount to meaningful work, researching ideas and materials open new pathways, and often, the more work you make, the more you will uncover.

FAILURE & CLASS TIME

You will fail. How you react during and after the failure is what determines if you are an artist or not. Mistakes happen, and you must budget your time to still accomplish what you set out to do. Last minute actions and procrastination often lead to mistakes that can cost you, or others, time, and materials. Class time includes participation in critiques and discussions and working on projects in class. Expect to work outside of class times as well to “go above and beyond” for high achieving grades.

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale	Major Projects
90 - 100 = A	1. Photograms
80 - 89 = B	2. Uncanny
70 - 79 = C	3. People
60 - 69 = D	4. Seven to One Odds
0 - 59 = U	

8. STUDENT HELP RESOURCES

Students have access to academic services, technical support, and student services at Fort Hays State University. You can find the resources online at <https://www.fhsu.edu/student-affairs/students>

9. COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance

Class attendance is required. If a student must be absent, it is their responsibility to inform the instructor and if excused make an appointment during office hours to make up for the time and activity missed. School-related absences should be discussed in advance. Appointments should not be made during class-time. Illness should be documented with Student Affairs or a doctor's note.

Three absences may result in one grade lowered. More than three absences will reduce the grade further, and the student's name will be reported to Student Affairs, pending further action. FHSU policy states the professor is advised to inform the college Dean of excessive absences and to initiate an official withdrawal from the course.

Attendance will be taken in the first 5 minutes of class. Three tardies may be counted as one absence. If counted absent at the beginning of class, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of their attendance at the end of the class.

Class Participation

Do your work to the best of your ability. Failures will happen, and that is ok. You get out of your education what you invest in it. No amount of talent can replace hard work. It takes time to make art. Researching materials and ideas will lead you to making more meaningful and powerful art.

Critiques are a vital part of class and cannot be skipped or missed. Artwork is evaluated and discussed as a whole group. Your grade will be comprised of discussions, critiques, worktime, and handling of materials in class. Most work will be turned in with the 3-ring binder and returned by the next class period.

Late Work

There are due dates marked for all assignments. This is a learning environment within pursuit of your degree, however, responsibility rests upon your shoulders. Part of any professor's job is to prepare you for work beyond the classroom. If you are working at a job, and are constantly turning in projects late, or missing deadlines, what do you think the boss's actions would be? Keep you on, or find an employee that is reliable and meets deadlines? Because of this, you will be held accountable, but there is some flexibility allowed. Major projects have less flexibility than smaller assignments. Deducting a letter grade on an assignment that is late *likely* will not happen because it is best to learn the materials, then for you to just not turn in anything. However, reducing grades on a late project is still possible.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices must not be a distraction from learning or instruction. Please silence all alarms and be aware of your use of them. If you are found to be frequently using your device(s) and/or interrupting the class, you will be asked to leave and not come back for the remainder of the day. There will not be extra instruction time outside of class hours provided to you if this happens.

DARKROOM

No cellphones are allowed in the darkroom. Light emitted from your phone could ruin not only personal supplies, but other students' supplies as well. Headphones should not be worn either, as communication is challenging in the dark and loud environment. At the very least, one ear must not be covered/impeded at all.

The darkroom should be treated the same as a chemistry laboratory. There are potentially hazardous chemicals if handled improperly, so therefore no food or drink is allowed in the darkroom. Drinks can be left outside the darkroom and should be labeled/identified for the owner of it.

ChatGPT and all other A.I.

Students can use AI-generated texts (images) on assignments in this course if instructor permission is obtained in advance and content generated is properly cited. Unless given permission to use AI tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including AI. Unauthorized or suspected use of AI will be subject to the FHSU Academic Honesty Policy and may result in a 0 for the assignment, failure of the course, and, if warranted, expulsion from FHSU.

Instructor's Art Academic Honesty Policy.

In an art class, academic honesty means your art should not be copied from another artist. If you have subject matter interests, then research and develop those interests, they will lead to unique solutions and content. If you continue to develop a large set of skills, try to find your special way of combining those skills into something new.

10. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

10.1. [Academic Honesty](#)

10.2. [Attendance](#)

10.3. [Withdrawal](#)

10.4. [Student Accessibility Services](#)

10.5. [Health and Wellness Services](#)

10.6. [Title IX Policy](#) : FHSU is committed to fostering a safe and productive learning environment. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex, gender, and gender identity are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. This includes all types of gender and relationship violence, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic and dating violence, and stalking. If you wish to report an incident or have questions about school policies and procedures regarding Title IX issues, please contact Laurie Larrick, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at lelarrick@fhsu.edu or (785) 628-4175. The Compliance Officer can help connect you to campus and outside resources, discuss all of your reporting options, and assist with any concerns you may have.

10.7. [Career Services](#)

10.8. [Technology Services](#)

11. COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and might change during the semester depending on how the course evolves. The content is subject to change depending on students' interest and progress. Students will be notified of the changes through announcements either in the class or at the Blackboard course site.