

**CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY 1 (ART 244 B)**

**3 Credit Hours**

**Tuesday–Thursday 9:00 am – 11:45 am**

**Spring 2023**

**Fort Hays State University**

**Schmidt Foundation Center for Art & Design Hall**

**Room 221**

**Adjunct Professor: Caitlyn Frazer**

**Office: RM 222**

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**620.805.2430**

**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an intensive exploration of the medium of darkroom photography. Students will be introduced to the fundamental techniques of darkroom photography, including analog camera functions, developing black and white film, and silver gelatin printing. This is an analog course and only includes limited digital instruction.

We will consider the rich history of analog photography as well as contemporary artists that use the darkroom in their practice. The course features a series of thematic projects that will require students to use their new technical knowledge to create a visually coherent group of silver gelatin prints. Students are expected to participate in every class discussion and to devote a considerable amount of time outside of class to make their strongest possible photographic work.

Class time will be a combination of technical demonstrations, darkroom printing time, in-class discussions, and slide presentations, as well as occasional class field trips. Critiques are an integral part of this course, where each student will share their work and ideas with each other in a thought-provoking and constructive environment. This class is time-intensive and will require each student's consistent engagement and self-directed problem-solving.

## COURSE GOALS

- Gain fluency with 35mm analog cameras, film processing, and darkroom printing.
- Cultivate an awareness of historic and contemporary issues in fine art photographic practice.
- Develop the ability to critically analyze and discuss photographic images.
- Cultivate the skills necessary to fully realize photographic projects from initial idea to finished print.

## PROJECTS

Students will turn in (5) projects over the course of the semester. Each project is designed to help students gain familiarity with the overall practice of photography both as a technical medium and as a conceptual way of creating art. These projects make up the majority of each student's grade.

Each project will conclude with an in-class critique. Part of learning to make good photographic images requires an understanding of the diverse ways in which people see images and the underlying histories that viewers bring to looking at works of art. This process can only be carried out through discussion. **Attendance and participation in critiques are required, with no exceptions. Failure to attend critique results in a zero for that project. In addition, projects lose one letter grade for each day they are late.**

## PROJECTS SCHEDULE

Unit	Dates	Projects	Skills
1	1/17-1/26	Landscape (Digital) Critique: 9/7	Exposure principles, shutter speed, aperture/depth of field, reciprocity, composition
2	1/31-2/21	Landscape (Analog) Critique: 9/28	Camera basics, film loading, and processing, enlarger basics, darkroom printing, image framing

<b>3</b>	<b>2/21-3/23</b>	<b>Haunted Critique: 10/26</b>	<b>Split filtering, long exposures, scanning prints and negatives</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>3/28-4/13</b>	<b>Experimental Critique: 11/16</b>	<b>Contact printing, photograms, cyanotype</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>4/18-5/11</b>	<b>Final Critique: FINAL</b>	<b>Synthesis of skills for self-directed final project</b>

There will be a number of assignments designed to help students with the thematic projects. The majority of assignments are to be completed in class. Exercises, on the other hand, are intended to enhance each student's grasp of the technical aspects of photography. The completion and submission of both assignments and exercises are required.

All thematic projects are graded on evidence of skill development in the areas listed below. Students can expect full points according to the following criteria.

<b>Conceptual</b>	Outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem solving, clear visual demonstration of ideas expressed from abstract vision to photographic image
<b>Formal</b>	Excellent execution overall, exposure management perfected, carefully formulated composition
<b>Print Quality</b>	Images are properly printed from negatives with rich range of tonal values, with no dust or other kinds of imperfections, display is considerate and meaningful in critique setting
<b>Participation</b>	Student has thoughtful, constructive feedback to offer to classmates in critique, submits work in progress in a timely fashion and actively engages in one-on-one meetings with instructor

Work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them, will not receive full points. Above all, student success in this course will be determined by each student's willingness to explore the many facets of photographic image-making (and what it means to them personally) paired with satisfactory progress towards basic literacy when using the camera and darkroom. In other words, students will be evaluated on their personal commitment to making photographs that are exciting and meaningful while also understanding how the camera, film processing, and darkroom printing function symbolically.

## GRADING

A	Outstanding commitment to developing ideas, original and creative problem-solving, clear evidence of risk-taking, excellent technical execution overall
B	Work that possesses several of the above qualities, but not all of them
C	Assignment completed according to expectations, doing what is asked, minimal risk-taking, technique not entirely refined
D	Less-than-satisfactory completion of expectations, minimal results, late or incomplete
F	Failure to complete work according to minimum expectations

## LATE WORK

This is a college-level course and all work should be completed and turned in on time. For every day that a project is late, students will lose a full letter grade for that project. Projects will not be accepted after three days of being late. When a project is submitted after the deadline, the student must make the instructor aware that it has been submitted to Google Drive via email in order for it to be graded.

**If a student misses a critique, that student will receive a zero for that project.**

## GRADE BREAKDOWN

Assessment Areas	Possible Points
Unit 1 Project—Landscape (Digital)	12
Unit 2 Project—Landscape (Analog)	12
Unit 3 Project—Haunted	12

Unit 4 Project—Experimental	12
Unit 5 Project—Final	16
<b>Projects Total</b>	<b>64/100 points</b>
Composition Assignment	6
Contact Sheet & Test Strips Assignment (2 pts each)	6
Split Filtering Assignment	6
Photograms Assignment	6
<b>Assignments Total</b>	<b>24/100 points</b>
Participation—Attendance	4
Participation—Engagement	4
Participation—Respect	4
<b>Participation Total</b>	<b>12/100 points</b>
<b>Points Total</b>	<b>100/100 points</b>

## REQUIRED COSTS AND MATERIALS

- **Camera: A 35mm (millimeter) camera with lens**

Students that have enrolled in this course often borrow a camera from a relative. If you do borrow a camera, please check to make sure the camera is in working condition ahead of the class to save time. You should also have a standard lens that has a range of at least 18-55mm. Please do not use a fixed, telephoto, or macro lens. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Students can also purchase a used or new 35mm camera online, however, please pay close attention that you are NOT purchasing a digital camera that resembles a “vintage” camera, a point-and-shoot camera, an instant camera (Polaroid, Instax, etc.), or an analog camera that is “body only” (this means that it doesn’t include a lens.)

- **Film: (5) rolls of Kodak TX 400-36 35mm Tri-X Pan Black and White Film**

This is just the start. Depending on how much you shoot, you might need more. Please note that we will NOT be shooting color film in this class. **Make sure to also purchase film that is 36 exposures and NOT 24 exposures.**

**IMPORTANT:** Do not delay in purchasing your camera and film as we will load your camera within the first two weeks of class. Again, if you would like guidance, please email me with links to the cameras you are considering. I will get back to you as soon as I can, usually within 24 hours.

- **Darkroom Paper: Ilford MGIV Multigrade IV RC Pearl 8x10 in 50 sheet pack.**

PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THE BOX OF PHOTO PAPER BEFORE CLASS! It will be ruined if exposed to light. Please note that it is possible that, depending upon how many sheets you go through, you might have to invest in more paper beyond the 50-sheet box. Often, students will invest in a second box of paper with another student towards the end of the semester to save money.

- **Binder with plastic 35mm negative sleeves (for proper storage of negatives)**
- **Scissors (for cutting film)**
- **Storage box/binder for silver gelatin prints**
- **Work apron to protect clothes**
- **Gloves (used while printing)**

Your course fees cover the cost of darkroom chemistry for the semester.

### **A NOTE ON CHEMISTRY**

Please note that this course is not only a studio art course but also one that requires students to be vigilant about how they handle the materials that they will use in order to make their art. While the chemicals are relatively safe as long as they are properly handled, they are still hazardous to one's health and potentially toxic if not used correctly. That said, *students are required to practice the utmost attention and care during their time in the darkroom, for their safety and the safety of others*. Students must make sure to avoid all contact /prolonged exposure to all of the darkroom chemicals, and that frequent hand washing is to be made into a darkroom printing habit. Students should avoid touching their face and eyes in the darkroom, and furthermore make sure that they rinse their hands thoroughly with soap and water for 30 seconds after being in the darkroom. Darkroom procedures will be covered in more detail during class.

### **NOTES ON REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Think of the requirements in this course by means of analogy: *Your camera, film, negatives, and paper are your textbooks, critiques are exams, prints are essays.*

- In the same way that you wouldn't attend a lecture or discussion without the text, it is essential that you have your camera, film, and paper with you **FOR EVERY CLASS SESSION** in order to engage in-class assignments and exercises.
- Critiques are like exams in the same way you would not miss an exam in a lecture class: critiques are impossible to make up. It is also disrespectful and detrimental to your experience and that of your classmates when you miss a critique. If you miss a critique, you will receive a zero on that project.

- Prints are like essays in that, if we discuss issues with the quality of your prints, the way you printed them (be it printing errors, etc.), or the negative itself, it is expected that you will adjust any problems **before** the critique in the same way you would fix grammatical errors or citations for a written essay before submitting it.

## **COURSE CONTENT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Course content and schedules will be posted on Blackboard and our Google Classroom. The primary method of communication for this class is via Blackboard Announcement, which is sent via FHSU e-mail and our Google Classroom. It is essential that students check their FHSU e-mail on a daily basis to receive assignments, lectures, directions, and updates with regard to the class. Failure to do so will adversely affect student performance in this class and ultimately student grades.

## **EXPECTATIONS AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

The work presented in the class **MUST** be made by the student from the initial idea to the final finished product. Any print made by anyone but the student will **NOT** be accepted, nor will work that was made prior to this class, nor will work that is/was made for another class. If you have questions about academic honesty in relation to this course, please ask the instructor. Turning in the work of others as your own will result in an automatic failure of the course (a letter grade of "F" with academic dishonesty). "Creative Photography I: Intro to Darkroom", like all studio and academic classes, demands a commitment of time in order to perform successfully. Much of the work can be done in class if you come prepared with all the required materials and assignments. Students are encouraged to read FHSU's Academic Honesty Policy, which is found in the University Catalog and online at:

[https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch\\_2\\_academic\\_honesty/](https://www.fhsu.edu/academic/provost/handbook/ch_2_academic_honesty/)

## **ATTENDANCE**

*Attendance is absolutely mandatory on all days and for the entire duration of class time. A student's grade will be adversely affected by absences, lateness, or*

premature exit from class unless. **More than three (3) absences will result in a lowering of a grade by a full letter grade. Being late to class or leaving early three (3) times is equal to one (1) absence.** Students should not let attendance ruin their grades. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained all of the material they missed for any absence. If a student is aware that they will be absent ahead of time, they must notify the professor in writing (i.e. via e-mail) as soon as possible. All work, including in-class assignments, must be done in advance in order to get full points.

## PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

(12 Points total, cumulative throughout the semester and different from the participation grade in critique)

	No points 0 points	Half points 2 points	Full Points 4 points
Attendance	Student does not attend class	Student is sometimes absent with explanation	Student is present for practically every class
Participates in group conversations	Student does not participate in group conversations	Student sometimes participate in group conversations	Student actively participates in group conversations
Respects and makes space for the opinions of others	Student does not respect nore make space for the opinion of others	Student sometimes respects and make space for the opinion for others	Student respects and makes space for the opinion of others

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A STUDENT COME TO CLASS IF THEY HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 or any other serious/contagious illness.**

In the event a student is not feeling well, they are strongly encouraged to seek medical attention in a timely manner. In the event that a student has a serious illness such as CoVid-19, they should contact the Office of Student Affairs in order to take the next steps while also informing the instructor. Above all, students should NEVER come to class if they are feeling ill or have been directly exposed to someone with COVID-19.

## **CELL PHONES AND TECHNOLOGY**

**STUDENTS MAY NEVER USE THEIR CELL PHONES IN THE DARKROOM.** The light from this device can IRREVERSIBLY DAMAGE light-sensitive paper. At the same time, students should be using the darkroom facilities with the same degree of caution as they would a wood shop or chemistry lab. That said, students may NOT use personal headphones in the darkroom. This will prevent accidents in a low-lighting scenario where people are coming and going, often with in-progress prints in hand.

That being said, as a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones and other devices prior to the beginning of class. If students are using their phones for any reason (which includes text messaging, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, etc.) I will issue one (1) warning after which time I will count every instance of use as a late to class / early departure. That being said, three (3) instances of in-class engagement with non-related devices or applications (or any combination of the two) will result in one (1) absence.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

No food is allowed in the darkroom at any time, for any reason. If students need to drink water, they should leave water bottles outside of the darkroom and make sure that they are clearly labeled.

## **ADA**

FHSU is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These and other federal, state, and local laws prohibit discrimination against qualified

persons with disabilities. Under the ADA, “disability” means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity of an individual; a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment. A substantial impairment is one that significantly limits or restricts a major life activity such as hearing, seeing, speaking, breathing, performing manual tasks, walking, or caring for oneself. It is the responsibility of persons with a disability to notify the University of that disability and the need for accommodations. For information pertaining to services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities, contact the Human Resource Office, Sheridan Hall Room 110, 600 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601, (785) 628-4462.

Please visit the following page for more information:

<https://fhsu.edu/president/Compliance-Office/Americans-with-Disabilities-Act/index.html>

## **HARASSMENT**

It is expected that all students enrolled in the course will abide by the terms and conditions of student conduct and academic honesty as cited in the FHSU campus-wide policy. FHSU is committed to creating and maintaining a community in which students, faculty, administrative, and academic staff can learn and work together in an atmosphere that enhances productivity and draws on the diversity of its members; an atmosphere free from all forms of disrespectful conduct, harassment, exploitation or intimidation, including sexual. No form of harassment will be tolerated in this class.

## **TITLE IX**

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 Amy Schaffer, University Compliance Officer and the FHSU Title IX Coordinator, at [alschaffer@fhsu.edu](mailto:alschaffer@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.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.fhsu.edu/judicial/gender-based-violence-misconduct-policy/>

### STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Tiger Tech – <http://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/>
- Forsyth Library – <http://www.fhsu.edu/library>
- Writing Center – <http://www.fhsu.edu/WritingCenter/>

## SCHEDULE

Unit 1	Week 1	Tuesday	1/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● First day of class</li> <li>● Syllabus</li> <li>● Icebreaker</li> <li>● Tour</li> </ul>
		Thursday	1/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Composition Presentation</li> <li>● Composition Assignment Introduced</li> <li>● Landscape Presentation</li> <li>● Landscape Project (Digital) Introduced</li> </ul>
	Week 2	Tuesday	1/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review Composition Assignment</li> <li>● Talking about Photographs Presentation</li> <li>● Camera and Exposure Basics Presentation</li> </ul>
		Thursday	1/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Landscape Project (Digital) Critique</li> <li>● Loading Film</li> <li>● On-Campus Field Trip</li> </ul>
Unit 2	Week 3	Tuesday	1/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction of Project</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2–Landscape (Analog)</li> <li>• Darkroom Basics &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Darkroom Clean-up</li> <li>• Loading and Processing Film Demo</li> <li>• IMPORTANT: Students must come to class in OSHA approved footwear from this day forward</li> </ul>
		Thursday	2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film Processing for Project 2–Landscape (Analog)</li> <li>• IMPORTANT: Students must have at least one roll of film to develop by this session)</li> </ul>
	Week 4	Tuesday	2/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlarger Basics</li> <li>• Printing Basics</li> <li>• Contact Basics</li> <li>• Test Strips</li> <li>• IMPORTANT: Students will need paper by this session</li> </ul>
		Thursday	2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> <li>• Darkroom Fundamentals Quiz</li> </ul>
	Week 5	Tuesday	2/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
		Thursday	2/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
Unit 3	Week 6	Tuesday	2/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project 2–Landscape (Analog) Critique</li> <li>• Students should respond in writing to (3) of the study questions from the Haunted Presentation</li> <li>• Haunted Presentation</li> <li>• Discuss Project</li> </ul>

				3–Haunted ideas
		Thursday	2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to Make Chemicals</li> </ul>
	Week 7	Tuesday	2/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Split Filtering Demonstration</li> </ul>
		Thursday	3/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film Processing for Project 3–Haunted</li> <li>• Review Dodging &amp; Burning and Split Filtering</li> </ul>
	Week 8	Tuesday	3/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
		Thursday	3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> <li>• Review in-progress prints</li> </ul>
	Week 9	Tuesday	3/14	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
		Thursday	3/16	NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK
	Week 10	Tuesday	3/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
		Thursday	3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project 3–Haunted Critique</li> </ul>
Unit 4	Week 11	Tuesday	3/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Ideas for Project 4–Experimental</li> </ul>
		Thursday	3/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photograms in-class assignment</li> </ul>
	Week 12	Tuesday	4/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film Processing for Project 4–Experimental</li> <li>• Lab Day</li> <li>• Discuss Ideas for Final Project</li> </ul>
		Thursday	4/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab day</li> </ul>
	Week 13	Tuesday	4/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>

		Thursday	4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project 4—Experimental Critique</li> </ul>
	Week 14	Tuesday	4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film Processing for Project 5—Final</li> </ul>
		Thursday	4/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film Processing for Project 5—Final</li> </ul>
Unit 5	Week 15	Tuesday	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
		Thursday	4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
	Week 16	Tuesday	5/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
		Thursday	5/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab Day</li> </ul>
	Week 17	Tuesday	5/9	<b>NO CLASS—FINALS WEEK</b>
		Thursday	5/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project 5—Final Critique</li> <li>• Final Portfolio Due</li> </ul>

