

# Photography II: Art 15 I

(0672) MW 1:30p-4:20p Winter 2011

Chad White Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:00-1:00pm.

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## General Course Description and Topics

This class will consider photography's relationship to culture and art. The photographs made will be interpreted broadly as a means of exploring the medium, of communicating ideas, of expressing personal observations, and/or shaping public opinion about places and environments. Subjects appropriate to this class may range from large or small scale, and include people as well as natural objects. Each student will define his or her own relationship to the topic within class parameters.

This is a studio art class, and participants are expected to make photographs and contribute to discussions and critiques on a weekly basis. A research project and presentation will be assigned. The class will interweave practice with theory in a seminar format.

Class discussions and critiques will focus on refining each participant's relationship to personal topics, methods of making photographs and uses of materials. The class will address a variety of approaches to photography. Both past and present uses of the medium will be considered, and span a wide range of historical periods from the nineteenth century to the late twentieth century and photography's continuing contribution to cultural legacies.

This will not be a techniques oriented class, but I will work with students to achieve the technical goals necessary for their work, however, we will be performing demos to further strengthen your photographic technique and skills in simple artificial lighting techniques and formal presentation methods.

*What you will need is the ability to be self-motivated and have the discipline to pursue your own projects. You will need to respond to the work of your colleagues, and during class discussions your willingness to communicate ideas and offer evaluation will be very important. If you are uncertain about your ability to function in this environment you should consider not taking this class.*

## Class Meetings and Labs

Class will meet on Monday; the lab period is scheduled for Wednesday (open lab time). The structure of the class is intentionally loose. Class may begin with a presentation or discussion, followed by critiques.

Critiques are intended to be thorough, and *I require students to bring in all the evidence of their work, including contact sheets and proofs.* Critiques serve to give guidance and suggest options for your work. Please come prepared for class by bringing questions about your work. We will concentrate on your decisions-making process as well as product.

The lab is an unstructured period, and time for people to work on individual projects. However, if necessary, class meetings may sometimes be scheduled during this time with advanced notice. Otherwise I will be available to answer questions or schedule individual meetings.

## **Requirements and Grading**

Specific assignments are not normally given. Instead, each person will be required to create and pursue photographic projects of their own design in response to landscapes and the discussions in class. This means you must work on a weekly basis, and will regularly show the results.

**Attendance in class is required.** Each person must participate in class discussions and critiques (*do not underestimate the importance of this requirement*).

You will be asked to do research and make a presentation to the class on a landscape related topic. You will be required to work on a project that will lead to a portfolio of photographs.

Grading will be based on four criteria: 1) the quality of your ideas and your understanding of conceptual issues (scholarship); 2) the technical quality of your work as appropriate to the work's content (craftsmanship); 3) your overall effort (both in quantity and quality) and 4) class participation (participation in discussions, absences from class and tardy attendance will be noted for grading purposes). The grade of "A" will be earned only through sustained hard work and accomplishment in all four areas. The grade of "C" is awarded simply for fulfilling requirements. The grades "D" and "E" are given to those who fail to meet course requirements and the expectations of a college level student. All grades, including plus or minus increments are based solely on my interpretation of your performance.

I will not assign grades to work completed during the quarter; therefore if you have any questions about how you are doing please see me to discuss your work or your standing in the class. I encourage you to see me during my office hours, or make an appointment if those hours do not meet your schedule. I am easily reached by e-mail.

Critique Dates:

Artist Presentation Date: