

Queens College
Darkroom Photography I
Spring 2022
Tuesday 10:00am – 1:50pm

Art Department / Photography & Imaging
PHOTO 176-01/ARTS 6203-06/ARTS 7272-06
Klapper Hall 140

Instructor: Matt Greco

Office: Klapper 108

Hours: By appointment

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Course Website: professorgreco.com

Course Description:

Introduction to Darkroom Photography will emphasize the creative aspects of using a still camera such as subject matter, point of view, natural and artificial light as well as the technical aspects of silver gelatin black and white film and print development, SLR camera operation, and basic darkroom techniques. In addition to silver gelatin photography, we will learn alternative photographic techniques and alternative imaging processes. This course is designed to give an appreciation for the craft in photography and as such we will be manipulating different materials and processes by hand. Through the close critique of your own images, images taken by your classmates, and images in the public sphere you will learn how to interpret and understand the avalanche of images we encounter during our day. This course will be as much about how to make good images as it will be about how to look at them.

Course Objectives:

At the close of this course the successful student will have a comprehensive understanding of the operation of a single lens reflex (SLR) camera and silver gelatin black and white film and print development as well as an introduction to alternative photographic techniques and processes. They will master an image workflow that includes familiarity with silver gelatin film and paper darkroom work, equipment/tools used in alternative photographic processes, as well as utilizing digital images in analog processes. They will expand their vocabulary to include the proper terminology for creating and critiquing photographs. They will demonstrate the ability to think creatively, form project ideas, and follow those ideas from conception to realization.

Course Requirements:

Students will be expected to complete all assignments on time and to the best of their ability. Students are expected to attend every class but life does happen so you get 3 absences, after that, additional absences will likely result in missed material and thus a lower grade. Be on time please; tardiness is as bad as absences; I will begin class a few minutes late to give everyone time to get settled in - do not abuse this. There will be a paper due (relax, it will be a short paper) and will relate to the film we watch. We will have a final critique; attendance is required.

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with the Special Services Office by emailing QC.SPSV@qc.cuny.edu. For more information about services available to Queens College students, visit the Office of Special Services website: <https://www.qc.cuny.edu/studentlife/services/specialserv/Pages/default.aspx>.

CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity:

Academic Dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion as provided at <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Course Website:

Please check our course website every week for updates to the syllabus or schedule, links to information and resources, and a student gallery page where we will showcase your work throughout the semester.

Grades:

Projects – 40%

Paper – 20%

Final critique & final portfolio – 40%

Rough Outline of Projects (subject to change):

- 1- *Black and White Photography (4 rolls of 120 & 3 final prints)*
 - Basics of film camera operation and exposure
 - Film development
 - Print development
- 2- *Cellphonography (30 images)*
 - How to shoot with your cell phone, upload your pictures to Adobe Elements (and iPhoto), create a good digital negative
- 3- *Cyanotypes (3 digital negatives & 3 final prints)*
 - Before there were inkjet prints there were silver gelatin prints. What was before that?

Printing:

We will be creating prints the good old-fashioned way...with our hands. Your M&T Fee will be either cancelled or refunded because of limited access to campus due to COVID, but you will still receive some supplies and you will be expected to purchase some supplies. Keep prints safe and clean; you will show these at final critique.

Paper:

The paper due will be two pages, typed, double-spaced and will be a response/reaction to one of the films we will watch. This is a response paper not a research paper; I want to hear your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the film, not a list of facts, figures and dates. Ask yourself these questions: What is this a film of? What do I think the photographer/filmmaker is trying to communicate? Does the film communicate this to me? What techniques did the filmmaker use and did these enhance the power of the film? What emotional or intellectual reactions did I have to the film? Does this kind of work by wealthy and famous artists exploit their subjects? Did this project benefit the subjects? Were they better off to have experienced it? Or worse off? Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Equipment:

The equipment we will use throughout the semester will vary. Below is a list of items you will need to borrow or buy (subject to change, recommendation links can be found on course website):

- Holga camera
- 50 sheets 8x10 RC VC B&W printing paper
- 5 rolls 120 film - 400 ASA B&W film
- 5 sheets 22x30 hot press watercolor paper
- 3-ring Binder

Schedule (subject to change):*Week 1: 2.1*

Introductions

course outline, review syllabus, required equipment, recommended reading

Week 2: 2.8

NO CLASS – TUESDAY is a FRIDAY

Week 3: 2.15

History of Photography, Science of Film, Aesthetics of Images

What is exposure? Shutter speeds, F-stops, ISO, Lenses, Depth of Field

What makes a good photograph? Composition, Color, Balance, Subject

Order Holga, film, & paper

Week 4: 2.22

Holga Camera intro

Loading 120 film intro

Film dev 120mm intro

Loading film – practice

Week 5: 3.1

BW Film Dev Demo

Loading film – practice

Loading Holga

Shoot 1 roll on campus – unload/reload Holga

Week 6: 3.8

Load 1 roll 120mm film

Develop 120mm film

Hang to dry

Shoot 1 roll of 120mm film for 3.15

Week 7: 3.15

Cutting/sleeving negs demo

BW Printing Demo – contact printing

Shoot 2 rolls 120mm film for 3.22

Week 8: 3.22

BW Printing Demo – density, contrast filters

Develop film

Make prints

Week 9: 3.29

BW Printing Review

Workday:

Develop film

Make prints

Week 10: 4.5

Workday:

Develop film

Make prints

Week 11: 4.12

Film & Discussion – ***Waste Land***

Discuss requirements of paper

Order cyanotype supplies

Shoot 10 cellphone images for 4.26

Week 12: 4.19

NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 13: 4.26

Cellphonography - taking pictures with a cell phone

Intro to Adobe Elements

Making digital negatives

Choose final 3 digital images for digital neg

Hand in cellphone images for negs

Week 14: 5.3

Cyanotype 1 - non-silver printing

Mix chemicals

Coat paper – dry paper

Contact printing

Pick up digital negs

Week 15: 5.10

Cyanotype 2 – non-silver printing cont.

Using picture frame as contact printer

Reprint digital negatives

Week 16: 5.17

Workday

Final BW prints finished

Final Cyanotype prints finished

Week 17: 5.24

Final critique

You will show 3 final BW prints and 2 final cyanotypes

Paper due

End of Semester

All work due 5.26 - 9am