

**Coffeyville Community College**

**#ARTS-110**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**FOR**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY I**

**Michael DeRosa**  
**Instructor**

**COURSE NUMBER:** ARTS-110 **COURSE TITLE:** Photography I

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michael DeRosa

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Art Department, Orscheln Hall, Eighth & Beech

**OFFICE HOURS:** See schedule posted on office door

**PREREQUISITE(S):** None

**REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS:** *Black and White Photography—A Basic Manual*, Second Edition, Henry Horenstein  
Portfolio

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is an introductory course designed to acquaint the beginning student with the materials and techniques of 35mm black and white photography. The course entails instruction in the use of the camera and use of the darkroom facilities for developing and printing. Ownership of, or ready access to, a 35mm hand camera is required of each student. Emphasis in this course is placed on photography as a means of artistic expression.

**EXPECTED LEARNER OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how to properly expose film with a 35mm camera
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how to develop black and white film
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how to make black and white prints
4. Demonstrate an understanding of basic terminology used in reference to photography

**LEARNING TASKS & ACTIVITIES:** This is a general course outline of objective:

- I. Introduction of course and darkroom
  - a. Chemicals
  - b. Processes
- II. Familiarization of camera (bring your camera)
  - a. F-Stops/aperture

- b. Shutter/shutter speeds
- c. ASA setting
- d. Light meter
- III. Developing Film
  - a. Unloading film
  - b. Loading film in developer tanks
  - c. Developing process
- IV. Making the print
  - a. Exposing the paper/enlarger
  - b. Test strips
  - c. Developing process
- V. Exposing film/taking the picture
  - a. Light & Shadow
  - b. Depth of field
  - c. Focusing
  - d. Composition
- VI. Assigned applied projects—see attached sheets
- VII. Group critiques

**ASSESSMENT OF  
OUTCOMES:**

The student will be assessed in the following areas:

- a. Cognitive: Knowledge and understanding of basic principles and processes of photography, assessed through core fundamental projects. Knowledge and understanding of terminology of photography and photography lab assessed through written exams and daily use.  
30% of final grade
- b. Metacognitive: Ability to integrate knowledge and understanding of basic photography skills through completion of assigned applied projects.  
30% of final grade
- c. Affective: Attendance, working attitude, completion of assignments by designated date and classroom/studio participation.  
20% of final grade
- d. Performance and skills: Ability to effectively use camera, enlarger, film, and necessary processes in order to produce photographs. Can be associated with craftsmanship. Performance is a daily subjective assessment in a studio class.  
20% of final grade

**GRADE  
DISTRIBUTION:**

- A. Exam, Fundamental Projects (Cognitive) 30%

B.	Applied Projects, Creativity (Metacognitive)	30%
C.	Class Participation and Attendance	20%
D.	Use of Materials and Tools, Craftsmanship (Performance and Skills)	20%

Incompletes will only be given at the end of the semester if previously agreed upon by the student and the instructor with specific requirement(s) stated as remaining work and a specific time designated for completion. Please note the college's policy on incompletes as stated in the College Catalog.

At all times the student must do his/her own work. Violation of this requirement will result in the student being officially withdrawn from the class. Please note the college's policy on withdrawal and the last day to drop a class.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is important and expected. Absences from more than three (3) class periods will result in a reduction of one (1) letter grade at the end of the semester. In order to acquire the needed skills and finish all projects by the assigned time you will need to attend class. Any unexpected absences beyond the above mentioned three (3) must be accompanied by written permission from faculty/coaching staff or doctor's written excuse. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor for any make-up work before going on field trips or other college sponsored events.

## **COMPETENCIES:**

### **SECTION I**

**THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO PROPERLY EXPOSE FILM WITH A 35mm CAMERA.**

1. Demonstrate how to use a light meter to determine an average exposure time.
2. Demonstrate how to bracket using the f-stop ring.
3. Demonstrate how to bracket using the shutter speed dial.
4. Demonstrate how to adjust the ASA setting for various speeds of film.
5. Demonstrate how to focus the lens.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how to control the depth of field.

### **SECTION II**

**THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO PROPERLY DEVELOP BLACK AND WHITE FILM**

1. Demonstrate the ability to unload film from film canister.
2. Demonstrate the ability to load film into film developing spool and tank.
3. Demonstrate the ability to develop film through chemical processing steps.

### **SECTION III**

**THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW TO MAKE BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS**

1. Demonstrate how to properly load the film negative into enlarger.
2. Demonstrate the ability to properly focus the negative in the enlarger.
3. Demonstrate how to arrive at a proper exposure time through test strips.
4. Demonstrate how to make a print through chemical processing steps.

### **SECTION IV**

**DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF BASIC TERMINOLOGY USED IN REFERENCE TO PHOTOGRAPHY**

1. Identify on a written exam, definitions of basic terminology used in discussing the features of a 35mm camera.
2. Identify on a written exam, definitions used in discussing the dark room laboratory.
3. Identify on a written exam, definitions of basic terminology used in the application of exposing film.
4. Identify on a written exam, definitions used in developing film.
5. Identify on a written exam, definitions used in making the print.

**This syllabus is subject to revision with prior notification to the student by the instructor.**

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** 15 Photographs of One Thing
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to focus and properly expose film with your camera. To gain understanding of how to read the light meter and select the proper aperture and shutter speed. To gain understanding of different points of view. Different points of view will have a drastic affect upon the content of the photograph.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Take fifteen (15) photographs of one subject. No two (2) of these photographs can be alike. Make three (3) prints for the critique.
- NOTES:** Take photograph from above (birds eye) the subject. Take photograph from beneath (worms eye) the subject. Take photograph on all different sides of the subject. Move close to the subject and take the picture. Move far away and take the photograph. Remember that you are trying to figure out the best way to represent something that is 3-dimensional in 2-dimensional format.
- Make sure that your ASA dial is set properly (ASA 400)
  - Make sure to properly set the aperture according to what your light meter suggests. You may want to bracket if you are not all that familiar with your camera.
  - Make sure that the shutter speed is properly set according to what your light meter suggests. You may want to bracket with your shutter speed as well.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

**TOPIC:** Still-Life

**OBJECTIVES:** To gain further understanding of how to use the camera and to properly expose film. A further concentration on gaining understanding of how to record something that is originally a 3-dimensional object and represent it with a 2-dimensional format. To gain understanding of how to achieve a well balanced composition.

This will not only involve the placement of the subject but, will also be with value contrast. To gain further understanding of the best point of view to record the subject.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Take a photograph of a still-life object (anything placed or staged by man). Bracket your exposures using your f-stop (aperture). Then bracket your exposures using your shutter speed.

Example:

Aperture      f-11/125 = proper exposure  
                  f-8/125  
                  f-16/125

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Shutter        f-11/125 = proper exposure  
                  f-11/60  
                  f-11/250

**NOTES:** Bracketing the exposure ensures a proper exposure. You can never trust your light meter 100%—especially in low light situations. Natural light is always better than artificial light.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Light and Shadow
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how light and shadow has an affect on an inherent content within a given subject. All subjects have an inherent content. That content can and will change by the amount and condition of the light that they are viewed within. Example: Long Shadows sometimes called dramatic lighting will produce a sense of mystery. No shadows will produce a matter of fact representation of the given subject. A really bright light source can produce a supernatural affect within the given subject.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Photograph a given subject. Consider the light that is present while photographing it. Think about how to use that light source to your advantage. You may need to wait until the light changes to get the affect that you are wanting. Your photograph should reflect a dramatic type content that is caused by the lighting and not necessarily by the content of the subject itself.
- NOTES:** A strong light that produces long shadows will enhance textures and rough surfaces. A really bright overall light source (such as midday sunlight) will have a tendency to wash out textures and rough surfaces—making them appear smoother than they really are.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Texture
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how light affects different surfaces. Think about smooth textures versus rough textures. To gain understanding of how to look for interest within mundane subjects. Every object and place has something that is interesting—you just have to find it. You should be able to produce interesting photographs even with the most mundane subject.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Take photographs of at least five (5) different textures (found in nature or everyday objects). Take the photographs in such a way that the texture is what is important and not the subject. In some cases you will or should not even be able to recognize the subject.
- NOTES:** Textures are in and a part of every object that exists—man made or God made. Look for textures in objects that are not obviously noted for having a special texture and see what new things you may discover.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Self Portrait
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to photograph people. Lighting/dress/environment all have a great affect upon the way that a photograph captures a person. You should explore all of these factors to gain confidence in photographing people.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Photograph yourself in different situations.
1. Dress and place yourself to be something you are not. Record this in a photograph. Be creative.
  2. Dress and place yourself in a manner that will produce the image of yourself of how you want people to see you (sloppy, shrewd, snobbish, rich, humble, heroic, romantic, sexy, etc...)
- Avoid a matter of fact photograph/snapshot.
- NOTES:** A photograph tells much about a person's character. The photographer has much control on how we think about a person's character by the way they are recorded in the photograph. A photograph can enhance or take away from a person's character or image. Lighting/dress/environment all have a great impact on the recorded image.
- Think about angle of view/repetition of patterns and shapes
  - Remember that every area within a photograph is important

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Nature
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to photograph nature and its aspects. To gain understanding of how to wait upon or plan out the subject. Being at the right place at the right time with your camera will always give you the best nature photos. You will see that you have to be ready for the subject. The photographer will have little or not control over the subject in many cases. The subject or ideal conditions will only be for a moment in most instances.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Photograph two different aspects of nature. In other words a tree, rock, animal, etc. that is undomesticated. Photograph it in a way to portray that it has not had any contact with man.
- NOTES:** Think about lighting and the way that it has an affect on the subject. Light and nature are ever changing and you should be aware of that as you work. It will never be the exact same from the moment that you record it. Avoid too much information in your photographs.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Landscape/Romantic
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to photograph the vastness of the landscape. To gain understanding of how to capture aspects of the landscape that reflect a specific content and/or feeling. To gain understanding of how to look for a focal point within a large vast subject—a key point of interest.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Photograph the landscape in such a way that you capture it as a powerful force. Look for key evidence of such things as fire, wind, water, erosion. It may not be the actual depiction of these elements as much as just the evidence of them having been there. Keep the placement of the horizon line low to portray the landscape vast. The higher the horizon line the more intimate the point of view. A horizontal format will probably offer you the most success.
- NOTES:**
- Be sure and have a focal point.
  - Avoid capturing too much information.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Social Setting
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to photograph people in natural settings. To be able to capture people without them having an awareness of the camera being present. To gain understanding of how to photograph people in such a way that they are not posing or self conscious.
- ASSIGNMENT:** Photograph people in a natural setting where they are interacting in a natural behavior. Do not let them see or know that they are being photographed. They should not be posing. Your object is to capture people that are involved in conversation or involved in a specific activity. The photograph should reflect this activity giving all of the necessary information needed. You should not need a caption to explain the photograph.
- NOTES:** Look for hand and eye gestures. Look for visual props that will tell a story. Avoid too much information in the composition. Think about lighting. Think about psychological balance that may be needed in the composition.

## PHOTOGRAPHY I

- TOPIC:** Photographic Essay
- OBJECTIVES:** To gain understanding of how to tell a story or illustrate an idea with the use of photography. It has been said by many throughout the history of art that a picture is worth a thousand words. This assignment will be exploring that concept to the fullest. Photography has changed the world and it has had a strong impact on people since its invention. It can persuade and influence people's opinion like no other form of communication. It is the most powerful form of communication (weapons) that we know. One does not even have to be literate to understand a photograph. It like no other media can communicate to the majority.
- ASSIGNMENT:** You are to photograph a particular event, person, place. The photographs that you take are to reflect a story or illustration of that person, place, or event in such a manner that you tell or communicate the whole understanding in a series of five (5) photographs. You should have a beginning, a climax, and a conclusion. You will have two supportive photographs that tie the beginning and the climax and the conclusion together.
- NOTES:** Remember lighting is critical. Remember composition is critical. You might want to only tell or reveal only part of the image or subject until you reach the end. Each photograph should be in need of support of the other four (4) and should be somewhat confusing or mysterious without the others.