

1990-91,
Peace River

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

AR 235 INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY 3(3-3)

INSTRUCTOR: Keith Howard

LOCATION: North Peace Adult Education Consortium
Industrial Building, Art Studios
Peace River

DATES: To be arranged for 1990/91 academic year

CLASS TIMES: Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:20 p.m. Includes weekend visiting artist workshops to be announced.

PREREQUISITES: AR 236 and AR 237 or consent of the department.

COURSE APPLICATION: Only for Visual Arts Diploma in the region.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will learn how to utilize their cameras to the fullest; the different types of film and their uses; developing black and white film, making black and white prints. Creative application of photography will be considered as a Fine Arts medium.

COURSE IN PERSPECTIVE:

I believe that it is important to start the course with fairly simple tasks and sequentially progress to more difficult tasks. Progression through explaining, inventing and manipulating the various techniques described. Progression is the key point, as long as you are advancing technically and aesthetically you will have freedom within the scope of the course outline

This is an introductory course for the beginner. It proceeds step by step through a series of lessons incorporating definition, discussion, practice and technical and aesthetic suggestions. My hope is that I can open the doors to new areas of photography and present tasks and problems that will challenge, stimulate and expand your sense of personal and professional artistic satisfaction.

There will be illustrated lectures and demonstrations of techniques and materials.

Unit 1 Understanding the mechanics of picture taking - i.e. how the camera works, exposure, depth-of-field and different types of film.

Unit 2 Film and paper processing, including different types of developers and controlling print contrast through colour filters.

- Unit 3 The psychology of visual perception as applied to photography, i.e. Gestalt theories of figure-ground, law of similarity, law of proximity and law of closure.
- Unit 4 Line and shape as visual modifiers.
- Unit 5 Light as a visual modifier.
- Unit 6 Thinking about photography as an artistic medium. Conventional and unconventional ways of seeing.
- Unit 7 The part as a whole sensitizing the eye to detail.
- Unit 8 Overcoming Creative Block
- Unit 9 Establishing a personal point of view.
- Unit 10 Learning to see through the photographic masters, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Edward Weston and the f64 group; E. Eugene Smith, Andre Kertesz, Ansel Adams.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. You will be able to use a 35mm camera to make manual exposures using a variety of black and white film.
2. You will understand and be able to explain the principals of film speed and f-stops as they relate to camera lens apertures and shutter speeds. You will be able to relate these principles to exposure.
3. You will be able to identify equivalent exposures from a given exposure.
4. You will understand how light affects film exposure and the qualities it imparts to the final photographic image.
5. You will be familiar with 35mm black and white film processing.
6. You will be able to generate B & W photographic prints exhibiting acceptable exposure, contrast, focus and cropping in a creative and artistic manner.
7. You will be able to employ a number of basic camera handling techniques, such as depth of field manipulation.
8. You will be able to recognize some common principles of photographic composition.
9. You will have developed a basic understanding of aesthetic value through a basic understanding of visual fundamentals.
10. You will have developed a new appreciation of photography's expressive potential.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING:

1. the degree of professional application and understanding of the black and white photographic process.
2. the depth, quality of concepts, and uniqueness of images generated.
3. attitude indicated by students participation, enthusiasm, commitment and professional approach to their projects.
4. the level of technical expertise evident in the quality of the finished photograph.
5. Assignments must be complete.
6. Poor attendance will reflect negatively in your marks and could constitute an incomplete.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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|----|---|-----|
| A. | Course work with portfolio presentation | 90% |
| | Participation in group activities | 10% |

B. Mid-term

A number grade based upon assignments completed. Mid-term may be an indicator grade only for the student's reference on his/her performance in this course. This will enable the student to make improvements of the evaluated work for the final portfolio presentation.

Note:

More than 10% absenteeism may constitute a failure except for medical or extenuating circumstances in which case a doctor's letter may be required.

Lateness will be noted.