

# VM492-1: Photo Practicum (4 cr.)

Emerson College — Fall 2020 Syllabus (last revised on 8/30/2020)

Class Sessions: Mondays, 10 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

On Campus Location: 180 Tremont Street, Ansin Bldg. #502

Remote Online Sessions: via Zoom (See invitation info in your Emerson email, Canvas & calendar)

**Professor:** Camilo Ramirez – [Camilo\\_Ramirez@emerson.edu](mailto:Camilo_Ramirez@emerson.edu)

**Course Materials:** [Canvas Course 1739401](#) & [www.camramirez.com/teaching.html](http://www.camramirez.com/teaching.html)

**Office Hours:** Online Zoom Meeting ID: [938 1058 2932](#) PW: [966933](#) (Please note this differs from class sessions)  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 am–11:30 am, or by appointment.

## Course Description:

Photo Practicum can be taken once for 4 credits or twice consecutively for 8 credits as part of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Production Track (see section on BFA requirements). This course is designed to integrate, enrich, and solidify a student's photographic skills building on past productions. Emphasis is placed on developing a personal vision and working toward completing and presenting an original portfolio. Explorations of various techniques and conceptual frameworks will be encouraged. Long term projects will evolve in the context of peer-based critiques, field trips, gallery visits, artist talks and professional development.

Prerequisites: Junior standing, completion of a 300 level photography production course.  
BFA candidates require approval of photography faculty by application.

## Student Learning Objectives:

- Develop a single advanced and extended project for an entire semester.
- Write a clear and accessible artist statement that describes their work.
- Document their practice and progress in a visual research journal.
- Develop professional promotional materials and practices for use beyond this course.
- Collaborate with classmates throughout the semester on common goals for this course.

## Expectations:

Since we are all entering into this **FLEX Course** voluntarily and from the beginning, here are our class guidelines: During this pandemic, everyone's health and wellness will come first in this course, and we will work together to adjust for any unplanned events and/or changing needs as they happen. I will strive for the most humane and healthy options available. Students must follow all lab rules and all college-wide [Covid-19 classroom protocols](#) when on campus. This includes wearing a [mask at all times](#), [maintaining social distancing](#), [hand sanitation](#), and [no eating](#) in the classroom. If you feel sick for any reason, do not come to class, let me know right away, stay in touch, and follow any [college screening protocols](#) including [self-reporting](#) and [quarantine](#) if necessary. The VMA department requires that students read the [VMA Covid-19 Safety Guidelines](#) and sign an [acknowledgement form](#).

Students are otherwise required to complete all assignments on time and attend class as agreed upon. This includes regularly shooting & printing new pictures (or equivalent) and attending each critique. This also means coming prepared, with new pictures to edit or print or the equivalent deliverables. Students should expect to spend time outside of class for shooting, editing and/or printing new photographs. Active participation during critiques is required. Students will share work in progress and examples of work that has influenced them, photos, notes, drawings, readings, videos, etc. Each student is responsible for having all required supplies for this course. Check your email daily. I will notify you of any updates or changes to the course during the semester via email.

That said, I realize we are living through a global pandemic, and this **FLEX Course** is extraordinary:

We are all still learning do deal with the effects of this virus, social distancing, shut downs and travel restrictions, the recent and drastic changes to our collective lives together on campus, new teaching remotely, learning in new ways on campus and home, mastering new technologies, and having varied access to learning resources.

Therefore, we will generally prioritize the most humane option as being the best choice, and will emphasize:

- › Supporting each other as humans
- › Simple solutions that make sense for the most of us
- › Sharing resources and communicating clearly

And we will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation by emphasizing:

- ▶ Accessible asynchronous content for varied access, time zones, and contexts as needed
- ▶ Live and synchronous discussions to learn together by sharing experiences, ideas, and work in progress
- ▶ Flexibility in realizing that everybody needs support and understanding through this unprecedented time

### **About Recorded Class Sessions & Consent:**

In order to adhere to FERPA requirements and protect everyone's privacy, in-person classes will not be recorded. Online classes may be recorded, but only by the instructor and with express written and unanimous consent of each student in the class as per [Emerson's Recording Policy & Consent Form](#). Any class recordings will only be made available to enrolled students & the instructor until the end of the term.

### **Mobile Devices:**

- The use of mobile devices in class is strictly prohibited unless otherwise instructed.
- Your phone should be turned off and put away when you enter the classroom.
- Under no circumstances should you ever make or answer phone calls during class.
- Text messaging, web browsing, even checking the screen on your device is also prohibited.

### **Textbooks (Recommended):**

*The Rise: Creativity, the Gift of Failure, and the Search for Mastery*, by Sarah Lewis, ISBN: 978-1451629248  
*Photowork: Forty Photographers on Process and Practice*, by Sasha Wolf, ISBN: 978-1597114592  
*The Photograph as Contemporary Art (3rd Ed.)*, by Charlotte Cotton, ISBN: 978-0500204184  
*Why People Photograph*, by Robert Adams, ISBN: 978-0893816032  
*Regarding the Pain of Others*, by Susan Sontag, ISBN: 978-0312422196

### **Supplies and Materials:**

Required Supplies and Materials:

- [Required EDC Contract Agreement Presentation in order to check out Emerson Equipment](#)
- An email address that you regularly check
- A high-res digital or still film camera, that fits the needs of your ideas (also available for checkout at the EDC).
- Inkjet Paper: Your choice of brand and surface, letter size (also consider large format/roll or double sided papers).
- Color Film: Your choice of Medium or 4x5 format. Kodak Portra 400NC.
- Color Film Processing Service: each roll of color film must be developed externally (C-41 Processing)
- Negative Sleeves - PrintFile brand 120-3HB, 25pack (let's talk if you are shooting 4x5)
- 3-ring Negative Box
- Anti-Static Orange cloth for negatives
- Any form of portable media that you can use to easily store and retrieve your work
- Journal/Notebook for use as a way of gathering and exploring ideas, organizing your project logistics, etc.

Recommended Supplies and Materials:

- Inkjet Paper: Large Format Inkjet Paper in sheets 13"x19" up to 17"x22". Or a 24"x100' roll of a specialty paper.
- 8x10" Negative Sleeves for contact sheets - PrintFile brand, Model: 810-1HB, 25pack
- Tripod & mechanical cable release for 35mm cameras (or remote release for your D-SLR)
- Display Calibrator, such as an i1 Display Pro (available for checkout at the EDC)
- Adobe Suite & a compatible computer

### **Getting your Supplies and Color Film Processing:**

Equipment: The cheapest way to buy film and supplies is online through stores such as B&H ([www.bhphotovideo.com](http://www.bhphotovideo.com)) and Adorama ([www.adorama.com](http://www.adorama.com)). Locally, you can go to Hunt's ([www.huntsphotoandvideo.com](http://www.huntsphotoandvideo.com)) in Cambridge and Kenmore Square, and Newtonville Camera ([newtonville.camera](http://newtonville.camera)) in Newton. For camera equipment you should also try Joe & Karen's Cameras (617- 770-3446), they have excellent prices. Emerson provides students with the Adobe Suite and student pricing on computers, for more info visit ([support.emerson.edu](http://support.emerson.edu)). Always remember to ask for a student discount.

Film Processing: Some local places such as [Hunt's](#) and [Willow](#) do (C-41) color film processing so shop around, but you can also use the film drop by [Panopticon Imaging](#) at their gallery near Kenmore Sq. Just be sure to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to both ship, process, and receive your film in time for class deadlines, since ultimately you are responsible for developing your film on time.

## Grading and Standards:

Grades will be earned in points throughout the semester by completing assignments, critiques and other deliverables. The total points possible and all grading criteria are specified in each Phase Description sheet which are in service of a single semester-long project. Each Phase Critique is weighed with the highest values. The emphasis will be on the progress & quality of work produced, and how well the material in class is incorporated into your semester-long project. This is a practicum, upper-level capstone course, and above average work is expected from everyone. Before each turning in each assignment and critique, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Have you accomplished your stated intention?
2. Does your work communicate your ideas clearly to other viewers?
3. Are your materials and techniques the most effective for your concept?
4. Is your presentation/craft the best it can be?
5. Is your work consistently presented on time?

The total points earned throughout the term are factored against total possible points into a percentage which determines the Final Course Grade according to this **Course Grade Scale**:

<b>A</b>	93% - 100%	<b>C+</b>	77% - 79%
<b>A-</b>	90% - 92%	<b>C</b>	73% - 76%
<b>B+</b>	87% - 89% *	<b>C-</b>	70% - 72%
<b>B</b>	83% - 86%	<b>D</b>	60% - 69%
<b>B-</b>	80% - 82%	<b>F</b>	59% and under *

Apart from assignment grading: absences, tardies, leaving class early, and being unprepared can also negatively affect your Course Grade as stated in the following Attendance Policy section.\*

## Attendance Policy:

During this pandemic, everyone's health and wellness takes priority over any attendance policy, therefore health guidelines will override the following requirements and I will work with you to the best of my ability toward the most humane and healthy options available. If you feel sick for any reason, do not come to class, let me know right away, stay in touch, and follow any [college screening protocols](#) including [self-reporting](#) and [quarantine](#) if necessary.

- Outside of Covid-19 required policies, good attendance is absolutely critical to this course as specified below:
- Late work is unacceptable and may only be accepted/graded at my discretion, and usually for 50% credit.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to deliver your work on the due date.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and turn in any pending work.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out if the Course Calendar/Schedule has been updated.
- Poor attendance can negatively affect your Course Grade as described in the following tables.\*

<b>TARDIES, etc.</b>	<b>COUNT AS:</b>
1 Tardy	½ of an Absence
1 Early Class Departure	½ of an Absence
Coming to Class Unprepared	½ of an Absence

<b>ABSENCES</b>	<b>COUNT AS:</b>
1 Absence	Course Grade not affected
2 Absences *	Course Grade is no greater than B+
3 Absences *	Automatic F (Course Failure)

For additional information on attendance see the Student Handbook:  
[www.emerson.edu/student-life/student-handbook](http://www.emerson.edu/student-life/student-handbook)

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

It is the responsibility of all Emerson students to know and adhere to the College's policy on plagiarism. If you have any questions concerning the Emerson plagiarism policy or about documentation of sources in work you produce in this course, you should speak to your instructor. Also see the Student Handbook for more information: [www.emerson.edu/student-life/student-handbook](http://www.emerson.edu/student-life/student-handbook)

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Emerson is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations, so that each student may fully participate in the Emerson experience. Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff will be working remotely for the fall of 2020. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact them at [SAS@emerson.edu](mailto:SAS@emerson.edu) or at (617) 824-8592 to make an appointment with an SAS staff member. Students are encouraged to contact SAS early in the semester. Please be aware that accommodations are not applied retroactively.

### **Emerson College Title IX Statement:**

I am a responsible employee at Emerson College which means I am not a confidential resource. I will keep your information as private as I can, however, if you disclose information that may violate [Emerson's Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) I must report it to the [Title IX Coordinator](#). If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the [Healing & Advocacy Collective](#), [Counseling and Psychological Services](#), or [Health and Wellness](#).

### **Diversity Statement:**

Every student in this class will be honored and respected as an individual with distinct experiences, talents, and backgrounds. Students will be treated fairly regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, disability, socio-economic status, or national identity. Issues of diversity may be a part of class discussion, assigned material, and projects. The instructor will make every effort to ensure that an inclusive environment exists for all students.

### **VMA Safety Statements/Guidelines, Acknowledgement & Working with Minors Statement:**

As an addendum to safety production guidelines which address Covid-19, the VMA department requires that production students read the [VMA Covid-19 Safety Guidelines](#), sign and return an [acknowledgement form](#). Please read the guidelines, then sign and attach the acknowledgment form in an email to me by the first week of classes.

Safety is always a concern on any film or video set; safety training is also a requirement for employment in the production industry. Emerson supports safety measures and requires safety training through seminars and The Emerson Safety Manual. Students participating in any Emerson film or video production must meet all requirements as set forth by the Emerson College Safety Manual and the Director of Production and Safety (DPS). Students with questions or concerns should contact Lenny Manzo (DPS) at (617) 824-8126 or [leonard\\_manzo@emerson.edu](mailto:leonard_manzo@emerson.edu). In case of emergency, the PRODUCTION SAFETY HOTLINE can be reached 24/7 at (617) 939-1311. Please see the [VMA Student Production Safety Manual](#) which is available online.

All Students will familiarize themselves with the College's [policies on minors](#). At no time is a student to be one-on-one with a minor without a guardian present. For more information on Safety or Working with Minors visit: <https://www.emerson.edu/visual-and-media-arts/safety-workshops>

## Course Calendar:

- **The following schedule is subject to change at my discretion.**
- Late work is unacceptable and may only be accepted/graded at my discretion.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to make arrangements to deliver your work on the due date.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and turn in any pending work.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out if the Course Calendar/Schedule has been updated.

Class	Date	Lesson Topics this week	Due this class	Due next class
#1	8/31 ZOOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course</li> <li>• Review syllabus</li> <li>• Online Class Materials</li> <li>• Introduction to Phase #1</li> <li>• HD, <a href="#">Backups</a> &amp; Online Album setup</li> <li>• Email Communication Test</li> <li>• EDC Contracts</li> </ul>	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Phase #1 worksheet</li> <li>• 1 pg. Project proposal</li> <li>• Set up your hard-drive, backups, etc.</li> <li>• Email test due by Sunday</li> <li>• EDC Presentation &amp; Contract</li> <li>• VMA Covid Safety Guidelines Form</li> <li>• Obtain all required course materials.</li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</li> <li>• Be prepared to discuss your written statement with the class as well as discuss your peers'.</li> </ul>
➤	9/7	No Class - Labor Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email test due by 9/7</li> <li>• EDC Presentation &amp; Contract</li> <li>• VMA Covid Safety Guidelines Form</li> <li>• Obtain all required course materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See above</li> </ul>
#2	Sat 9/12 ZOOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium &amp; Large Format Cameras</li> <li>• Read written statements out loud &amp; show work in progress (contact sheets / journals)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Phase #1 worksheet</li> <li>• 1 pg. Project proposal</li> <li>• Set up your hard-drive, backups, etc.</li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</li> <li>• Be prepared to discuss your written statement with the class as well as discuss your peers'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading (<i>Alina Cohen</i>)</li> <li>• Individual meetings: <b>Group A</b></li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</li> </ul>
#3	9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• Flextight Scanner Demo</li> <li>• Concepts and Projects (J. Antoni)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual meetings: <b>Group B</b></li> <li>• 8-10 Good Prints (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all rolls or RAW files shot</li> </ul>
#4	9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Critique for Phase #1 (Group A)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group A</b> Critique Deliverables:</li> <li>• 8-10 Good Prints (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all rolls or RAW files shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same Critique Deliverables for <b>Group B</b></li> </ul>
#5	9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Critique for Phase #1 (Group B)</b></li> <li>• Introduction to Phase #2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group B</b> Critique Deliverables same as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading (TBA)</li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</li> </ul>
#6	10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• Lightroom Workflows</li> <li>• Artist Statements &amp; CV's, Print and online stationary</li> <li>• Framing/Portfolios/Presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual meetings: <b>Group A</b></li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</li> </ul>

Class	Date	Lesson Topics this week	Due this class	Due next class
➤	10/12	No Class - Indigenous People's Day	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Individual meetings: <b>Group B</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading (TBA)</i></li> </ul>
#7	10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Artist Presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> <li>• Reading (TBA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</i></li> <li>• 8-10 Great Prints (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all rolls or RAW files shot</li> </ul>
#8	10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Critique for Phase #2 (Group A)</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group A</b> Critique Deliverables:</li> <li>• 8-10 Great Prints (or equivalent)</li> <li>• Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all rolls or RAW files shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same Critique Deliverables for <b>Group B</b></i></li> </ul>
#9	11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Critique for Phase #2 (Group B)</u></b></li> <li>• Introduction to Phase #3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group B</b> Critique Deliverables same as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reading (TBA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</i></li> <li>• <i>Individual meetings: <b>Group A</b></i></li> </ul>
#10	11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• Large Format Printing</li> <li>• Gallery Exhibitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading (TBA)</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 or equivalent.</i></li> <li>• <i>Individual meetings: <b>Group B</b></i></li> </ul>
#11	11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting Installations</li> <li>• Organizational &amp; Inventory Systems</li> <li>• Online Publishing Platforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot, And/OR prepare work for installation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Deliver Artwork to Gallery &amp; Install</i></li> <li>• <i>Finalize your Portfolio</i></li> </ul>
➤	11/16–11/18	Gallery Installation & Documentation Dates	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Install your work and document your installation</i></li> </ul>
#12	11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output for print, press, and web.</li> <li>• Professional and Exhibition Submissions/Opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize your portfolio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-20 Perfect Prints (or equivalent) &amp; Sequence</li> <li>• Finalized Artist Statement</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all rolls or RAW files shot</li> </ul>
#13	11/30 ZOOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Phase 3 - Final Critique (A)</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-20 Perfect Prints (or equivalent) &amp; Sequence</li> <li>• Finalized Artist Statement</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Same Critique Deliverables for <b>Group B</b></i></li> </ul>
#14	12/7 ZOOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Phase 3 - Final Critique (B)</u></b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group B</b> Critique Deliverables same as above</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Upload and deliver final work to online exhibition platforms</b></li> </ul>