

VM366-1: Digital Photography (4 cr.)

Emerson College — Summer 2023 Syllabus (last revised on 7/11/2023)

Scheduled Class Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Locations: 180 Tremont Street, Ansin Bldg. #206 (Classroom), #703 (Photo Electronic Lab)

Professor: Camilo Ramirez
Camilo_Ramirez@emerson.edu
www.camramirez.com/teaching.html (Syllabus, some readings, project worksheets, public resources)
[Shared Google Drive Repository](#) (Delivering your work, additional resources, project evals & grades)

Office & Hrs: Ansin Building #911
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Course Description:

A hands-on production class created especially for the photography student who is interested in the digital darkroom. It is designed to give students a basic introduction to the elements of digital capture, manipulation, and output. The course addresses the digital tools within the context of the aesthetics of photography. Photoshop is used as another photographic tool. Prerequisite: VM265: Introduction to Photography

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the history, theory, and practice of media arts (digital photography).
- Demonstrate basic skills in media arts production (digital photography).
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of photographic projects and images through group critiques.
- Learn professional standards and techniques for shooting still images with medium-format cameras.
- Learn professional standards and techniques for shooting still images with Digital SLR cameras.
- Demonstrate knowledge of converting color analog film and printed photographs into digital.
- Establish an effective color-managed workflow for digital photography with industry standard software.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of various output workflows for print and online use.

Expectations:

The content of this course requires in-person, physical presence by students. We will be critiquing prints in person and using equipment that is specific to our digital lab. There will be no remote attendance unless it is planned by me in advance for the entire class, and cleared by our department. Whenever possible inform me in advance if you will be missing class. Missing three or more of our 4-hour class sessions means that you will have not had sufficient exposure to the course material and will result in failing the course. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to follow up in order to mitigate your absences & any missed work.

Students are required to complete all assignments on time. This means regularly shooting & printing new pictures and attending each critique. Scheduled lab-work time means coming prepared with new pictures to edit or print. Students should expect to spend time outside of class for shooting, editing and printing new photographs. Active participation during critiques is required. Each student is responsible for having and bringing all supplies required of this course to every class. Students must also follow all lab rules.

I will notify you of any updates or changes to the course/schedule during the semester via email, so you are expected to check it frequently.

Mobile Devices:

- The use of mobile devices in class is strictly prohibited unless otherwise instructed.
- 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.
- Your phone should be turned off and put away when you enter the classroom.
- Audio or video recording, filming, photographing, viewing, transmitting, producing or publishing the image or voice of another person or that person's materials, creative works or educational records without the person's knowledge and expressed consent is strictly prohibited.

Textbooks:

Digital Photography A Basic Manual, by Henry Hornstein, ISBN: 978-0316020749 (Recommended)
The Photograph as Contemporary Art (4th Ed.), by Charlotte Cotton, ISBN: 978-0500204481 (Recommended)
Research in Photography, (2nd Ed.), by Ana Fox & Natasha Caruana, ISBN: 978-1350010499 (Recommended)
A World History of Photography by Naomi Rosenblum, ISBN: 978-0789209375 (Recommended)

Supplies and Materials:

Required Supplies and Materials:

- An email address that you regularly check
- A Digital-SLR or Digital Medium Format camera with manual aperture and shutter speed controls (both available for checkout at the EDC)
- A still film camera: medium format up to 4"x5" (also available for checkout at the EDC)
- Inkjet Paper: Minimum 100 of sheets of 8.5"x11" Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
- Medium Format Color Film: Preferably Kodak Portra 400NC 120 size (minimum 5 rolls of 120 size)
- Color Film Processing Service: each roll of color film must be developed externally (C-41 Processing)
- Negative Sleeves - PrintFile brand 120-3HB, 25pack
- 3-ring Negative Box
- Anti-Static Orange cloth for negatives
- Any form of portable digital media that you can use to easily store and retrieve your work
- Journal/Notebook for use as an Exposure/Printing Log, class notes, jotting ideas and thoughts

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 35 mm cameras (or remote release for your D-SLR)
- Display Calibrator, such as an i1 Display Pro (available for checkout at the EDC)
- Adobe Suite (Provided by Emerson to Full-time students) & 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) and Adorama (www.adorama.com). In town, you can go to, Hunt's (www.huntsphotoandvideo.com) in Cambridge and Kenmore Square, and Newtonville Camera (newtonville.camera) in Waltham. For analog cameras I recommend Joe & Karen's Cameras (617- 770-3446) in Quincy, they have excellent prices. Emerson provides students with the Adobe Suite and student pricing on computers, for more info visit (support.emerson.edu). Always remember to ask for a student discount when buying any supplies.

Digital Camera Review Sites: These sites are a good start when shopping for digital equipment, especially cameras. <http://www.dpreview.com/> & <https://www.imaging-resource.com/> & <https://www.cameralabs.com/>

Film Processing: Local labs [Panopticon Imaging](#), [Hunt's](#), and [Color Tek](#), do (C-41) color film processing. This semester, Emerson has coordinated a film drop with Panopticon Imaging which comes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Details and procedures to use this service will be discussed in class and sent via email. No matter which service you use, be sure to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to shoot, ship, process, and receive your film in time for class deadlines, *since ultimately you are responsible for developing your film on time.*

Access to Emerson Photo Facilities & Equipment:

As part of your first project you'll need to complete the following two items for credit.

1. Learn about photo facilities, see open lab hours, sign the usage contract, and take the hazmat quiz:
<https://postproduction.emerson.edu/hc/en-us/articles/4412630988819-Darkroom-and-Photo-Facilities-Access>
2. Learn about equipment access at the EDC, terms of usage, safety, and sign the usage contract:
<https://edc.emerson.edu/hc/en-us/articles/4405114380691-Equipment-Distribution-Center-Terms-of-Use>

Grading and Standards:

Grades will be earned in points throughout the semester by completing assignments, critiques and their deliverables. The total points possible and all grading criteria are specified in each Project Description sheet. The three Project Critiques are weighed with the highest values. 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 scale:

COURSE GRADE SCALE

A	93% - 100%	C+	77% - 79%
A-	90% - 92%	C	73% - 76%
B+	87% - 89% *	C-	70% - 72%
B	83% - 86%	D	60% - 69%
B-	80% - 82%	F	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:

- Attendance scores are based on attending the scheduled synchronous class sessions.
- Good attendance is absolutely critical to this course.
- 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.

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

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

- Poor attendance can negatively affect your Course Grade as described in the following tables.*

If you have a religious observance or practice that impacts our course calendar, please see me as soon as possible to discuss how we may make appropriate arrangements. For additional information on attendance, see Emerson's general [Attendance Policy](#) guidelines.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct 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. View the college's [Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism Policy](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Emerson is committed to providing equal access and support to all students who qualify through the provision of reasonable accommodations, so that each student may fully participate in the Emerson experience. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Services at SAS@emerson.edu or 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.

Equal Opportunity Statement:

If you have been impacted by discrimination, harassment or sexual violence, I am available to support you, and help direct you to available resources on and off campus. Additionally, the [Office of Equal Opportunity](mailto:oeo@emerson.edu) (oeo@emerson.edu; 617-824-8999) is available to meet with you and discuss options to address concerns and to provide you with support resources. Please note that because I am an Emerson employee, any information shared with me related to discrimination, harassment or sexual violence will also be shared with the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#). If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the [Healing & Advocacy Collective](#), the [Emerson Wellness Center](#), or the [Center for Spiritual Life](#).

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 Statement & Working with Minors Statement:

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 Production Safety, Working with Minors, forms and other production resources visit: <https://emerson.edu/academics/academic-departments/visual-media-arts/student-production-and-safety-resources/policies>

VMA Photography BFA Option:

This course is part of a sequence of courses that are required to complete VMA's optional Photography BFA. For VMA students who are interested and meet the requirements, it is highly recommended that you meet with your academic advisor as early as possible to map out your trajectory over several semesters.

VMA students have a choice to apply to the Photography BFA Option as part of the existing BFA in Media Arts Production. This offering has all the same requirements as the traditional BFA with the main difference being that students accepted into this program will be required to enroll in two consecutive semesters of VM 492 Photo Practicum for their capstone experience rather than the traditional BFA Production Workshop. BFA seats are limited, so applications into the program will be reviewed by committee and selected based on the merit of the highest quality work/proposals. Accepted students will have the opportunity to concentrate on a single photographically based project over the course of an entire academic year, and receive \$500 in VMA funding to complete their work.

To view all requirements, deadlines, and to learn about the application process, visit the [Photography BFA Option](#) page.

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	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#1	Tue 7/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Review syllabus • Online Class Materials • Backups, Setting up a hard-drive & folder nesting • Exposure Triangle & Bracket Review • Medium-Format film camera demo • Introduction to Project #1 	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Email test due by Thursday</i> • <i>Week 1 Reading, and Discussion</i> • <i>Read Proj #1 Assignment Sheet</i> • <i>Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF)</i> • <i>Shoot 2 rolls of 120 film</i> • <i>Completed Bracket Worksheet</i> • <i>Bring your hard-drive next class</i> • <i>Bring some old color or b/w negatives</i>
#2	Thu 7/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion • Film Scanning • Hard Drive Setup for Photo Libraries • Lightroom Setup • Individual meetings /(LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email test due by Thursday • Week 1 Reading, and Discussion • Read Proj #1 Assignment Sheet • <i>Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF)</i> • Shoot 2 rolls of 120 film • Completed Bracket Worksheet • Bring your hard-drive next class • Bring some old color or b/w negatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shoot 3 new rolls of 120 film</i> • <i>Process and sleeve all 5 rolls shot</i> • <i>Contact sheets for all 5 rolls shot</i>
#3	Tue 7/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Proposal Presentations with Contact Sheets • Lightroom Setup & Basic Navigation • Individual meetings / Scan & Print (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoot 3 new rolls of 120 film • Process and sleeve all 5 rolls shot • Contact sheets for all 5 rolls shot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contact Sheets for all film shot</i> • <i>Select and scan high res final images for critique</i> • <i>Print 1 scanned image at 8"x10"</i>
#4	Thu 7/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Image Anatomy & Basic Color Theory & Manual Global Color Corrections • Digital Printing workflow for color • Q&A review for critique next week • Individual meetings / Project Check-in, Scan & Print (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Sheets for all film shot • Select and scan high res final images for critique • Print 1 scanned image at 8"x10" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>6 Good Color Prints from High-Res Medium format Film Scans</i> • <i>Contact Sheets for total 5 Rolls of 120 Film.</i> • <i>Printed Project Proposal</i>
#5	Tue 7/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique for Project 1 • Introduction to Project 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Good Color Prints from High-Res Medium format Film Scans • Contact Sheets for total 5 Rolls of 120 Film. • Printed Project Proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Week 5 Reading, and Discussion</i> • <i>Read Project #2 Worksheet</i> • <i>Present your choice of Photographer</i> • <i>Research your chosen photographer</i> • <i>Bring your Digital SLR to class with memory card & full battery</i> • <i>Shoot 50 new RAW files</i>
#6	Thu 7/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion • Present your choice of photographer • Manual Digital Camera Operation & Digital Camera Tips • Individual meetings / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week 5 Reading, and Discussion • Read Project #2 Worksheet • Present your choice of Photographer • Research your chosen photographer • Bring your Digital SLR to class with memory card & full battery • Shoot 50 new RAW files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs</i> • <i>Contact Sheets for all photos shot</i> • <i>1 new color print</i>

Class	Date	In-Class Lesson Topics	Due this class	Due next class
#7	Tue 8/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic RAW workflow for color Color Management & ICC Profiles Advanced use of Printers & Ink types, Soft Proofing, Paper Media Options. Individual meetings / Print at least 1 photo in class / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print
#8	Thu 8/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting Artist Local Adjustments & Photoshop Editing via Lightroom 4-up color print tests. Individual meetings / Print at least 1 photo in class / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for total 200 RAW photos shot 8 Good Color Prints from RAW files Upload PDF of Research Paper to shared google drive Present Printed Research Paper + Book Sample
#9	Tue 8/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critique for Project 2 Introduction to Project 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for total 200 RAW photos shot 8 Good Color Prints from RAW files Upload PDF of Research Paper to shared google drive Present Printed Research Paper + Book Sample 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 9 Reading, and Discussion Read Project #3 Worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF) Shoot 50 new RAW files or 1 Roll of 120 Film Equivalent
#10	Thu 8/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Discussion Understanding Image Resolution & Image Sharpening Large format Printers & Handling Big Prints Individual meetings / Print at least 1 photo in class / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Week 9 Reading, and Discussion Read Project #3 Worksheet Upload 1pg Proj 1 proposal (PDF) Shoot 50 new RAW files or 1 Roll of 120 Film Equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print
#11	Tue 8/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output workflows for print, press, and Saving for Web Individual meetings / Print at least 1 photo in class / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print
#12	Thu 8/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Publishing Platforms, Venues & Dissemination of your work Final Project Q&A Session Individual meetings / Print at least 1 photo in class / Project Check-in, (LAB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for all photos shot 1 new color print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for total 200 RAW, or 4 rolls of 120 film equivalent 10 Excellent Color Prints Printed Project Proposal
#13	Tue 8/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critique for Project 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoot 50 new RAW Photographs Contact Sheets for total 200 RAW, or 4 rolls of 120 film equivalent 10 Excellent Color Prints Printed Project Proposal 	<p>Nothing due next week as this is our final class.</p> <p>Keep up with your photo practice and stay in touch!</p>