

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

Emerson College — Fall 2022 Syllabus (last revised on 9/12/2022)

Class Sessions: In-person on Mondays, 10 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

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

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

**Course Materials:** [www.camramirez.com/teaching.html](http://www.camramirez.com/teaching.html) (Syllabus, some readings, project worksheets, public resources)  
[Shared Google Drive Repository](#) (Delivering your work, project evaluations, additional resources)

**Office & Hrs:** 180 Tremont St. (Ansin Building) #911. Mailbox is also on the 9th floor of the Ansin bldg.  
In-person office hrs on Mon, Wed, & Fri: 9am–10am, or schedule an appointment via email.

## 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:

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 and darkroom labs. 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 (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:

- 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 (10 rolls of 120 will be provided) 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)). In town, 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 Waltham. For analog cameras I recommend Joe & Karen's Cameras (617- 770-3446), they have excellent prices and are located in Quincy. 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 when buying any supplies.

Film Processing: Your fastest option for C-41 Color film is to use the film drop at the EDC offered by [Panopticon Imaging](#) (\$10/roll, EDC Mondays 10am-Pickup / EDC Wednesday Mornings-Return Delivery) or use their drop-off at their gallery near Kenmore Sq with a slower turnaround. You might also go to local places such as [ColorTek](#) (\$9/roll, 1 week turnaround, Drop-off by Wed 12pm-Pickup Fri-Sat). [Hunt's](#) (\$6.99/roll, but slower 1 week turnaround).

All of these do C-41 color film processing so shop around, but Just be sure to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to both ship, process, and receive your film in time for all 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 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 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. Group Critiques are 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 craft and presentation 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:

- In person attendance is absolutely critical to this course. There will be no remote attendance.
- 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 or before the due date.
- If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and make arrangements to turn in 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)

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. **If you feel sick, DO NOT come to class. Check in with me ASAP and we'll work things out for next week.** For additional information on attendance see the [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. 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](mailto: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>

## 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
➤	9/5	No Class - Labor Day	—	—
#1	9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course</li> <li>• Review syllabus</li> <li>• Photo Manager Session</li> <li>• Online Class Materials &amp; Contracts</li> <li>• Email Communication Test</li> <li>• HD, <a href="#">Backups</a> &amp; Online Album setup</li> <li>• Email Communication Test</li> <li>• Medium-Format &amp; 4x5 cameras</li> <li>• Introduction to Phase #1</li> </ul>	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Email test</i></li> <li>• <i>Photo Area Contract &amp; Hazmat Quiz</i></li> <li>• <i>EDC Contract</i></li> <li>• <i>Obtain all required course materials.</i></li> <li>• <i>Read Phase #1 worksheet</i></li> <li>• <i>1 pg. Project proposal</i></li> <li>• <i>Bring 4 (4"x5") prints from new cell phone photographs</i></li> <li>• <i>Set up your hard-drive, backups, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</i></li> <li>• <i>Be prepared to discuss your written statement with the class as well as discuss your peers'.</i></li> </ul>
#2	9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts and Projects (J.Antoni)</li> <li>• Flextight Scanner Demo</li> <li>• Online Resources</li> <li>• Bookmaking exercise &amp; demo</li> <li>• Read written statements out loud &amp; show work in progress (contact sheets / journals)</li> <li>• Individual meetings / Scan (<b>PEL</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email test</li> <li>• Photo Area Contract &amp; Hazmat Quiz</li> <li>• EDC Contract</li> <li>• Obtain all required course materials.</li> <li>• Read Phase #1 worksheet</li> <li>• 1 pg. Project proposal</li> <li>• Bring 4 (4"x5") prints from new cell phone photographs</li> <li>• Set up your hard-drive, backups, etc.</li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</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>• <i>Reading/Discussion (Alina Cohen)</i></li> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</i></li> <li>• <i>Bring all negatives, contact sheets and printing materials for possible lab time.</i></li> </ul>
#3	9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Discussion</li> <li>• See the work of various artists</li> <li>• Bookmaking exercise &amp; demo</li> <li>• Printing Demo</li> <li>• Individual meetings / Scan (<b>PEL</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading/Discussion (Alina Cohen)</li> <li>• Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>• Bring all negatives, contact sheets and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Present during Critique:</i></li> <li>• <i>Revised Artist Statement</i></li> <li>• <i>8 min. good Prints</i></li> <li>• <i>Artist Journal</i></li> <li>• <i>Contact Sheets for 4 rolls shot</i></li> </ul>
#4	10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Critique for Phase #1</b></li> <li>• Introduction to Phase #2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present during Critique:</li> <li>• Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>• 8 min. good Prints</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for 4 rolls shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Read Phase #2 worksheet</i></li> <li>• <i>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</i></li> </ul>
➤	10/10	No Class - Indigenous People's Day	• <i>See Below</i>	• <i>See Above</i>

Class	Date	Lesson Topics this week	Due this class	Due next class
#5	Tues. 10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bookmaking Demo</li> <li>Visiting Artist Presentation</li> <li>Individual meetings / Print (PEL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #2 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>
#6	10/17	<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> <li>Individual meetings / Print (PEL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present during Critique:</li> <li>Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>10 min. Great Prints</li> <li>Artist Journal</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>
#7	10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Critique for Phase #2</b></li> <li>Introduction to Phase #3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present during Critique:</li> <li>Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>10 min. Great Prints</li> <li>Artist Journal</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #2 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading (TBA)</li> <li>Bring comfortable walking clothes &amp; notebook for taking notes</li> </ul>
#8	10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field Trip – TBA</li> <li>Questions in Art Criticism Worksheet</li> <li>Individual meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #2 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading (TBA)</li> <li>Bring comfortable walking clothes &amp; notebook for taking notes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>
➤	Fri–Sun 11/4–11/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional but highly recommended: <a href="#">Go to the Boston Art Book Fair!</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Above</li> </ul>
#9	11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Discussion</li> <li>Gallery Exhibitions &amp; Planning</li> <li>Large Format Printing</li> <li>Individual meetings / Print (PEL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film.</li> <li>Reading/Discussion (TBA)</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #3 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film and/or finalize exhibition work.</li> <li>Finalize any exhibition coordination duties with your classmates</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>
#10	11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Critique for Phase #3</b></li> <li>Introduction to Phase #4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present during Critique:</li> <li>Revised Artist Statement</li> <li>10 min. Exhibition Prepped Prints</li> <li>Artist Journal</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #3 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film and/or finalize exhibition work.</li> <li>Finalize any exhibition coordination duties with your classmates</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>
#11	11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documenting Installations</li> <li>Organizational &amp; Inventory Systems</li> <li>Print &amp; online stationary</li> <li>Online Publishing Platforms</li> <li>Individual meetings / Print (PEL)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Phase #3 worksheet</li> <li>Shoot, process and sleeve min. 2 rolls of 120 film and/or finalize exhibition work.</li> <li>Finalize any exhibition coordination duties with your classmates</li> <li>Contact Sheets for all new photos</li> <li>Bring all negatives and printing materials for possible lab time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalize Exhibition Preparations for your work</li> <li>Finalize any exhibition coordination duties with your classmates</li> <li>Prepare for final critique and exhibition opening</li> </ul>

Class	Date	Lesson Topics this week	Due this class	Due next class
#12	11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Output for print, press, and web.</li> <li>• Professional and Exhibition Submissions/Opportunities</li> <li>• Individual meetings / Print (<b>PEL</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize Exhibition Preparations for your work</li> <li>• Finalize any exhibition coordination duties with your classmates</li> <li>• Prepare for final critique and exhibition opening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Install your work during the installation window</i></li> <li>• <i>10-20 Perfect Prints exhibited in gallery</i></li> <li>• <i>Finalized Artist Statement in gallery</i></li> <li>• <i>Artist Journal</i></li> <li>• <i>Contact Sheets for all photos shot</i></li> </ul>
➤	12/2–12/4	Gallery Installation Window	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>See above</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Install your work</i></li> </ul>
#13	12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phase 4 - Final CritiquePhase</b></li> <li>• Opening Reception 4pm–7pm (recommended)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install your work during the installation window</li> <li>• 10-20 Perfect Prints exhibited in gallery</li> <li>• Finalized Artist Statement in gallery</li> <li>• Artist Journal</li> <li>• Contact Sheets for all photos shot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Document your installation</i></li> <li>• <i>Artwork must be deinstalled and picked up (Exact Date TBD)</i></li> <li>• <i>Final Digital Portfolio due</i></li> </ul>
➤	12/5–12/9	Photo Practicum Exhibition Running Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>See above</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Document your installation</i></li> </ul>
#14	12/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Exam Period</b></li> <li>• Instructor's Work</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document your installation</li> <li>• Artwork must be deinstalled and picked up (Exact Date TBD)</li> <li>• Final Digital Portfolio due</li> </ul>	—