

# VM265C: Introduction to Photography (4 cr.)

Emerson College – Syllabus: Fall 2006 (revised 1/18/07)

Class sessions: Fridays 10am – 1:45pm

Rooms: T206 / T504

**Camilo Ramirez:** Camilo\_Ramirez@emerson.edu  
www.camramirez.com/teaching.htm

**Office Hours:** Room: 180 Tremont #1119C, Thursdays 2pm – 3pm, or by appointment

## Course Description:

An introduction to the fundamentals of black-and-white photography, including instruction in camera controls, film development, printing, and photo finishing. Assignments will generate critiques, which will develop “the critical eye.” Gallery visits, guest artists, and slide presentations on the history of photography will further enhance critical thinking. The student must have the use of a camera with adjustable speed and aperture. The tools presented will help you to engage the language of photography as a means of expression. Have fun!

## Expectations:

Students are required to complete all assignments on time. This means successfully printing new pictures and attending each critique. Scheduled darkroom time means coming prepared, with new negatives to print. If you are not prepared with new negatives to print you will receive an absence for the day! Students should expect to spend time outside of class for shooting and printing new photographs. Student’s must follow all darkroom rules and procedures. Each student is responsible for having all supplies required of this course.

## Grading is based on the following:

Attendance: Class attendance is absolutely required. Three absences will result in automatic failure. Punctuality counts. If you are over 10 min. late, you will be marked late. Two lates equals an absence.

30% Slide Presentation: You will be required to give a short (10 minute) presentation on an artist or issue in photography that interests you. Details will be given in a project sheet.

50% Critiques: A steady output of new work culminating in a final portfolio of 12 high quality ink jet prints. Successful completion of all in class and take home assignments. After each critique you will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Image/Print Quality
- Content/Meaning
- Presentation
- Production

20% Participation: Active participation in all critiques and class discussions is expected. This includes completion of all the reading assignments.

**Required Supplies:**

35mm Camera (with manual aperture and shutter speed controls)  
Film: Tri-X 400 (you will need about 30 rolls of 36 exposures)  
8x10" Negative Sleeves (7 rows of 5 frames)  
3-ring Negative Box  
200 sheets of 8x10" Ilford Multigrade IV B&W photographic paper (RC pearl surface)  
Hand towels  
Ilford Multigrade Contrast Filters (6x6")  
Compressed Air Can  
Anti-Static Orange cloth for negatives  
Scissors  
Notebook for use as an Exposure/Printing Log, class notes and ideas

**Optional Supplies:**

Tripod, (for exposures longer than 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a second)  
Cable release  
Thermometer  
Can Opener  
Latex Gloves  
Apron

Most supplies can be obtained through the following vendors online:

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>

<http://www.calumetphoto.com/>

<http://www.adorama.com/>

<http://www.wolfcamera.com/>

A listing of local photography vendors by name with address and phone number:

[http://boston.zami.com/Photography\\_Store/Photographic\\_Equip\\_&\\_Supplies](http://boston.zami.com/Photography_Store/Photographic_Equip_&_Supplies)

**Required Textbook:**

Black & White Photography: A Basic Manual. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Revised. by Henry Horenstein  
ISBN: 0-316-37305-2

This book can be found in the school bookstore, or you can order it online at:

<http://www.amazon.com>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>

**Disability Statement:**

If you believe you have a disability that my warrant accommodations in this class, I urge you to register with the disability Services Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Bashir at 216 Tremont Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, (617.824.8415) so that, together, you can work to develop methods of addressing needed accommodations in this class.

**Plagiarism 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.

\*Please Note: The following schedule is subject to change at my discretion. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what, if any, changes to the schedule have been made. Unless you receive an exemption from me, you will be responsible upon returning to class for both the current weeks assignments, as well as the assignments for the week you missed.

---

**Week 1: January 19<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

Introductions and logistics. Camera Operation. Light Meter. Aperture & Shutter Speed. Bracketing.

Assignment: Shoot 2 rolls of Tri-X 400 film with bracketed exposures of 3 frames, shooting one object of your choosing. Vary the angle and distance of each bracket, but use the same light, location and shoot both rolls in one session. Be ready to develop film and bring all needed supplies next week.

---

**Week 2: January 26<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

Developing Film. Develop one roll of film in a two reel tank with a partner.

Lab Activity: Develop the second roll before the next class.

Assignment: Bring all printing supplies next week

---

**Week 3: February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Class Meets in T504**

Printing Demonstration/Lab Day. Contacts and Enlargements. Basic use of filters

Lab Activity: Make contact sheets of your 2 rolls and choose 4 images to enlarge

Assignment: Bring your 4 good prints to the next class for discussion.

---

**Week 4: February 9<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

\***Group Critique.** Depth of field. Reciprocity. Discuss Assignment “Sense of Place” (critique October 19<sup>th</sup>)

Assignment: Begin shooting “Sense of Place”. 4 rolls, 5 great prints for this assignment.

---

**Week 5: February 16<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T503**

Dodging & Burning demonstration. More on filtration.

Lab Activity: Making final Prints for “Sense of Place”.

Assignment: Bring your great 5 “Sense of Place” prints as well as your 4 contact sheets to next class.

---

**Week 6: February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

\***Group Critique “Sense of Place”.**

Discuss Assignment “Portraiture & Representation” (critique November 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Assignments: Begin shooting “Portraiture & Representation”. 4 rolls, 6 great prints for this assignment.  
Shoot, develop 2 rolls and have 2 contact sheets ready for next class.

---

**Week 7: March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

Editing from contact sheets.

Lab Activity: Enlarge prints from your first 2 contact sheets

Assignment: Shoot, develop 2 more rolls and have 2 more contact sheets, and enlarge the good images from this shoot. Bring your 6 best images/prints & your 4 contacts to next week’s critique.

**Week 8: March 9<sup>th</sup> – NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

---

**Week 9: March 16<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

**\*Group Critique “Portraiture & Representation”.**

Discuss Assignment “Constructed Narrative” (critique November 16<sup>th</sup>)

Assignments: Begin shooting “Constructed Narrative”. 5 rolls, 8 great prints for this assignment.  
Shoot, develop 2 rolls and have 2 contact sheets ready for next class.

---

**Week 10: March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

Editing from contact sheets.

Lab Activity: Enlarge prints from your first 2 contact sheets

Assignment: Shoot, develop 3 more rolls and have 3 more contact sheets, and enlarge the good images from this shoot. Bring your 8 best images/prints & 4 contact sheets to next week’s critique.  
Bring a 1 page typed final project proposal to our next class.

---

**Week 11: March 30<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

**\*Group Critique “Constructed Narrative”.**

Read and discuss “Self Defined” project proposals.

Assignments: Research and prepare your 10 minute slide presentation. (Due November 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Begin shooting “Self Defined” 8 rolls, 10 excellent & cohesive prints for this assignment.  
Shoot, develop 4 rolls and have 4 contact sheets ready for next class.

---

**Week 12: April 6<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

**\*Slide Presentations Due**

Lab Activity: Enlarge prints from your first 4 contact sheets

Assignment: Shoot, develop 2 more rolls and have 2 more contact sheets, and continue enlarging the good images from this shoot. Bring all contact sheets and prints to the next class.

---

**Week 13: April 13<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

Editing from contact sheets.

Lab Activity: Enlarge prints from your previous 6 contact sheets

Assignment: Shoot, develop 2 more rolls and have 2 more contact sheets, and continue enlarging the good images from this shoot. Bring all contact sheets and prints to the next class.

---

**Week 14: April 20<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T504**

Editing from contact sheets.

Lab Activity: Enlarge prints from your previous 8 contact sheets

Assignment: Continue enlarging the good images from this shoot.  
Bring your perfect 10 “Self Defined” prints as well as your 8 contact sheets to next class.

---

**Week 15: April 27<sup>th</sup> – Class Meets in T206**

**\*Group critique of “Self Defined”.**

**Week 15: April 30<sup>th</sup> (Monday, 10am-11:45am) – Class Meets in T206 \*Group critique Continued**