Midland College
Syllabus
ARTS 2356/COMM 1318
Photography I
Semester and Year
SCH (2-4)
Instructor Name

COURSE DESCRIPTION
An introductory course for beginners in black and white photography. Students learn basic techniques of camera functions, film development, print processing and design fundamentals.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Correctly use a camera to focus and expose film.
2. Develop black and white film.
3. Develop photographic prints.
4. Improve prints by creative darkroom controls and composition.
5. Produce a photographic portfolio.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (Text may vary—none required)
Photography; London, Upton, Kobre &Brill, ninth edition, 2008
Photographic paper (RC poly/multigrade 8x10"). **Do not expose to light or heat**.
35mm black & white film, film sleeves, mat board & dry mount tissue, a combination lock for your locker, hand towel for darkroom work and access to an SLR camera

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND COURSE POLICIES

Class activities and assignments: The first few sessions will cover the basics of how to use a camera, develop film and print photographs. Students will bring three photographs to each class critique, and participate in a teacher directed peer review. Students receive credit for photographs and participation. A portfolio of ten mounted prints will be due as the final exam.
Attendance is important in this class. All absences are considered unexcused with the exception of the following situations: illness with a doctor's note, school sponsored activity with a written note, or death in the immediate family. Three consecutive absences or six total absences may result in failure of the course; the student's grade will suffer due to unexcused absences. Please talk to the instructor if you have difficulty attending class.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Prints turned in late will receive only partial credit. If you miss a critique you lose credit for participation also, however, late work is better than no work.

Please turn off your cell phones and pagers during class.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

Each *critique* is included in determining your grade. Critiques are worth 10% of your total grade, the midterm is 10% and the portfolio is worth 40% for a potential of 100%. Students who accumulate a total of 90 or above will receive and A; 80-89 is a B; 70-79 is a C; 60-69 is a D; and below 60 is an F.

Projects will be evaluated by the following criteria:
Content - what is the objective; does the photograph communicate your intent?
Technique - how well is the image exposed, developed and printed?
Creativity - does the print show originality and an aesthetic quality?

You can receive full credit if the assignment is **completed correctly, on time,** and you participate in the **critique discussion.** If you wish to earn a grade of:

A: Attend class & complete assignments on time. Show integrity in your work. Excel.
B: Good results from assignments. Work is on time. Participation in critiques.
C: Average work and attendance. No extra effort evident.
D: Poor attendance and products. No real progress noticeable.
F: Come to class late, leave early, and don't turn in assignments.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction & syllabus
Cameras; chapter 1
Cameras; chapter 2
Photogram demonstration; chapter 7
Film development demonstration; chapter 6
Photogram critique; 3 - 8x10 prints, shutter speed assigned
Contact sheet & enlargement demonstration; chapter 7
Shutter speed information
Henri Cartier-Bresson slides
Shutter speed critique; 3 - 8x10 prints of freeze, pan & blur
Brian Lanker slides
Printing filters demonstration
Bruce Davidson slides
Printing filters due; 5 - 5x7 prints

Depth of field critique; 3 - 8x10 prints of long, short & isolated
Studio lighting
Lighting demonstration
Review for test
Exam
Lighting critique; 3 prints of sunlight, studio & artificial
Matting demonstration
Alternative demonstration
Portrait critique
Alternative techniques
Altered critique; 3 different techniques.
Student show piece due for exhibit
Hang student show
Print & mat portfolio
Portfolio due; 10 matted prints
Student show reception 6:30-8:30 PM
Final; critique of portfolio

Note: Students are encouraged to contact the instructor at any time; however, making an appointment will guarantee the instructor's availability at a specific time.

Please do not use the darkroom on Tuesday and Thursday morning. The darkroom is open all day on Monday & Wednesday 9:00-9:00, Friday until 5:00. Darkroom clean up will be scheduled by class rotation.

Photographic supplies may be found at the following stores:
Odessa Camera, Tanglewood near Music City Mall 550-0211
D & D Photo, 2121 E.42nd St., Odessa 552-0131
Catalogues and websites are also available for ordering:
www.porters.com www.freestylephoto.biz www.bhphotovideo.com

Photography 1 critiques: Each critique requires three 8x10 photographic prints.

Shutter speed assignment:
1. Stop motion – Freeze a moving subject
2. Show motion – blur the moving subject (background is still)
3. Pan – background blur and the moving subject is relatively sharp

Depth of Field assignment:
1. Long – entire subject in focus; the whole scene should be sharp
2. Short – subject sharp and something out of focus
3. Isolated – short DOF with center subject sharp

Lighting assignment:
1. Sunlight (dramatic, conscious deliberate use of natural light)

2. Studio (controlled light falling on your subject, by using light stands and floods)
3. Artificial (strobe/flash, pen light, sparkler, hand held flash, street light, headlights…)

Portrait assignment:
Three environmental portraits; show something about the person in the picture (character, activities, work /hobby, location, props, costume…) One must be a self-portrait.

Altered assignment:
Three or more different techniques. May be chosen from toners, reversal, collage, multiple exposure, hand colored, solarized… Think about how the technique relates to the subject.

Portfolio – mat ten of your best prints

DROP / WITHDRAWAL

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor.

Withdrawal from course: The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal**.

2025-2026 WITHDRAWAL DATES

Fall	November 13
Fall First 8-Week Session	October 2
Fall Second 8-Week Session	December 2
December Mini-Semester	December 29
Spring	April 9
Spring First 8-Week Session	February 19
Spring Second 8-Week Session	April 23
May Mini-Semester	May 21
Summer I	July 2
Summer II	August 6

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

For Research information, tutorials, library information, web links and more, access the **Distance Learning Webpage for the Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center.**

Academic Database Access

1. Go to **Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center.**
2. Click “Academic OneFile.”
3. You will be taken to “GALE ACADEMIC ONEFILE."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT for Canvas problems

1. Navigate to the page in Canvas where the problem exists
2. Click the Help icon in the dark green toolbar on the left
3. Select “Report a Problem”, complete the short form and Submit
4. Check your MC student email account for responses to your ticket.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit https://www.midland.edu/services-resources/accommodation-services.php and complete the “Application for Accommodation Services” located under the Application Process tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply each semester and be approved to receive them. Supporting documentation must be submitted from a qualified professional and be within the last five years. All documents will be reviewed and a “Notice of Accommodations” letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations. For more information or questions, please contact Bradley Gwatney at bgwatney@midland.edu or 432-685-6422.

Phone, Director Residence Life and Accommodations: 432-685-6467

Midland College Disability Services

Microsoft Accessibility

Canvas Accessibility

Turnitin Accessibility

Adobe Reader Accessibility

Google Reader Accessibility

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Academics and Student Services

Phone, Midland College Testing Center: 432-685-4504

Phone, Writing Center, Midland College On-Campus Writing Center: 432-685-4811, Second Floor, Fasken Learning Resource Center

Language Hub Online (available to all students in Canvas)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUE PROCESS
Midland College Student Rights and Responsibilities

PRIVACY POLICIES

The below privacy policies apply to this course, as they are applicable to your conduct on this online platform.

Midland College Website Privacy Policy
Canvas Privacy Policy
YouTube Privacy Policy
Canvas Student Guide
Turnitin Privacy Policy

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name:	
Email:	
Office Location:	
Office Phone:	
Office Hours:	
Department Chair:	Dr. Amy Post-McCorkle
Division Dean, Fine Arts and Communications:	Dr. William Feeler
Secretary:	Ms. Lula Lee
Division Office:	135 AFA
Phone:	432-685-4624
Division Office hours:	8-5, Monday-Friday

Non-Discrimination Statement

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Nicole Cooper, Title IX Coordinator
129 SSC
432-685-4781
TitleIX@midland.edu

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

UPDATED AUGUST 2025