

# VIEW CAMERA

PHMD 560 / ADS 560, University of Kansas, School of Architecture, Design & Planning, Department of Design  
Fall Semester 2012, Monday / Wednesday 8:30am – 11:20am (29159) in A+D 211 / 213

**Professor:** D. Bryon Darby  
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Office: A+D 210  
Office Hours: Mon / Wed, 2:30pm - 3:20pm or by appointment

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**Description:** This course provides students with a rigorous immersion into the formal, technical, and conceptual concerns and challenges of photography by way of the view camera. Embracing both the wet and digital darkrooms, students shoot and develop sheet film that is then utilized to produce digital prints.

As a learning strategy, the view camera forces a slowed process of careful consideration, visualization, and clear intention while facilitating a deep understanding of the mechanical and optical principles integral to the medium of photography. As a practical tool, the large-format camera offers a level of control and quality still unsurpassed by the highest-end digital sensor. This course will challenge students both physically and mentally as we attempt to master the most fundamental and enduring tool of photography. This course will change the way you make photographs.

**Prerequisite: PHMD 222.**

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**Objectives:** After successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- understand and apply the mechanics of a view camera in terms of optics, focal plane, and perspective control.
- properly expose and optimally process black and white sheet film for digital scanning.
- produce quality, mural-sized ink jet prints.
- critically discuss and critique view-camera photography in terms of its formal and conceptual merit.
- utilize and apply this understanding towards contemporary conceptual, commercial, illustrative, expressive, and other communicative pursuits.

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**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed a total of **THREE** absences without penalty. Upon the fourth absence the student will be automatically dropped from the course. No exceptions. Plan ahead and choose your absences wisely.

Students unprepared for class or more than 15-minutes late will be marked absent. Students who leave before class has been excused will be marked absent. Each and every third tardy will count as an absence. Please come to class prepared and on time.

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**Workload:** Throughout the course of the semester, there will be a series of exercises, projects, and presentations each directed towards a conceptual, formal, or technical concern. **Expect to spend 4-8 hours a week outside of class working on these assignments.** Projects will be shared and discussed during class critiques throughout the semester.

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**Final Project:** The final project will consist of no less than 10 exhibition quality prints presented as a cohesive body of finished work. The theme is open, but each project must first be approved by the instructor via a written proposal and consist entirely of new material (not from any previous project). The final project will include a working critique and a final critique and will require a final written statement.

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**Notebook:** You will each need to keep a notebook for this course. A good notebook will include, class notes, preliminary sketches, brainstorming, shot lists, exposures logs, etc., and serve as evidence of your level of engagement with the subject matter. Notebooks will be collected and graded at the end of the semester. Your notebook is worth 10% of your final grade.

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**Participation:** Participation from all of you is vital. This means not only listening attentively in class, but also actively

participating in class discussions and critiques, and in general, being a thoughtful contributing member of the class. **At the sole discretion of the instructor, poor participation can and will hurt your grade by as much as 10% (one full letter).**

**Lab Conduct:** The wet darkroom and digital lab contain a lot of very expensive and potentially dangerous equipment. Please treat the facilities and equipment with respect and don't attempt to use anything you haven't been properly trained to use. The chemicals we use in this lab should not cause any health problems if used properly. It is important to treat all chemicals with caution and to understand what you are working with before you begin. Avoid skin contact with chemicals when at all possible and wear rubber gloves when working with chemicals. **Food and beverages are never allowed in either lab at any time.** If you are pregnant, or become pregnant during the semester, please talk with me as soon as possible.

As this is a shared learning environment, it is important that you clean up after yourself. It is expected that you will act in a safe and non-disruptive manner. Unsafe or destructive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in expulsion from the class.

There will be a mandatory **LAB CLEAN UP DAY** near the end of the semester. Participation from all of you will be required.

**Email:** I will use email to correspond with this class on a regular basis. Please check your KU email account frequently. If you prefer I contact you via another email account, please let me know.

**Grading:** Completion of all of the assignments on time, with a reasonable degree of craftsmanship and care, along with regular attendance are the minimum expectation. Simply fulfilling the minimum expectations will award you a letter C grade at most. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified by the assignment. As long as you turn your work in on time and show your best effort, you can "re-do" any project and re-submit it for re-evaluation.

General guidelines for assessing performance:

**A** = superior work ethic, consistent participation, thorough comprehension, mastery of technical skills

**B** = strong work ethic, active participation, excellent material comprehension, excellent technical skills

**C** = average work ethic, some participation, basic material comprehension, proficient technical skills

**D** = poor work ethic, inconsistent participation, loose material comprehension, basic technical skills

**F** = poor work ethic, lack of participation, lacking material comprehension, poor technical skills

Final grade breakdown as follows:

Assignments - 40%

Final Project - 40%

Notebook - 10%

Quizzes - 10%

The following grading scale will be used when figuring your final grades:

A+ 100%	A 93-99%	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%	
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%	D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%	F <60%

**Late Work:** All projects and assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date set forth by the instructor. Assignments not handed in on time and as specified are late. Incomplete assignments are not accepted. Late projects will be penalized by lowering the project grade by one full letter grade for each day that it is late. Each day is defined by the original due date time. After three days, late projects are no longer accepted.

Turned in on time at 8:30 AM Monday: On time! No penalty!

Turned in between 8:31 AM Monday and 8:30 AM Tuesday: 1 day late, loss of 1 letter grade

Turned in between 8:31 AM Tuesday and 8:30 AM Wednesday: 2 days late, loss of 2 letter grades

Turned in between 8:31 AM Wednesday and 8:30 AM Thursday: 3 days late, loss of 3 letter grades

**Equipment:** For the duration of the semester each student will be paired with another and jointly provided a kit containing a monorail view camera, one lens, a loupe, a cable release, a dark cloth, a tripod, and a set of 4x5 film-holders. It will be between each student and their partner to workout and schedule to equally share the provided equipment. **All of this equipment is expensive. If a camera or lens**

**gets damaged, we do not have the means to replacement it. Please treat the equipment with care and respect.**

Additionally, you will each need the following materials:

- One box (50 sheets) of Arista EDU Ultra B&W 100 ISO 4x5 Sheet Film (\$30.00)  
<http://www.freestylephoto.biz/190145-Arista-EDU-Ultra-BandW-100-ISO-4x5-50-sheets>
- One pack (25 sleeves) 4x5 negative sleeves (\$6.50)  
<http://www.freestylephoto.biz/45425-Printfile-Archival-Negative-Preservers-Holds-4-4x5-negatives-25-pack>
- Binder or Film Box for storage of processed film (\$10.00)  
<http://www.freestylephoto.biz/889051-Besfile-Archival-Storage-Binder-with-Rings-Black>
- 8.5x11-inch inkjet paper for proofs and general-purpose prints. I recommend Epson Ultra Premium Presentation Paper Matte (5 Star)  
<http://www.freestylephoto.biz/41341-Epson-Ultra-Premium-Presentation-Paper-8.5x11-50-sheets-formerly> (\$16.00)
- Additional high quality paper for final project prints, 13 x 19 minimum (>\$20.00)
- Money on your Beak 'Em Bucks card for ink+paper usage in the print lab (>\$50.00)
- A dusting brush, rocket blower, or canned air (~\$10.00)
- A small hand towel for use in the darkroom lab

Though not necessary, it would be incredibly useful if you had your own:

- Handheld incident light meter (Sekonic, Minolta, Pentax, etc.)

**Resources for Materials:**

<http://www.freestylephoto.biz/>  
<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/>  
<http://www.inkjetart.com/>  
<http://www.overlandphoto.com>  
<http://www.wolfes.com/>

**Misconduct:**

All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any course work. Plagiarism and any other form of academic misconduct that is in violation with the University Senate Rules and Regulations will not be tolerated, and may result in suspension or expulsion from the university. **All work you hand in for this class must be made by you, over the course of this semester, exclusively for this class.**

Please read and understand the KU Senate Rules and Regulations regarding academic misconduct:  
<https://documents.ku.edu/policies/governance/USRR.htm#art2sect6>

**ADA Note:**

The KU office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY).

Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

**Fine Print:**

The schedule and procedures in this course syllabus are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, weather conditions, illness, or re-evaluation of course objectives. Every attempt will be made to provide said changes in writing.

## View Camera Schedule, Fall 2012\*

	Mondays	Wednesdays
Week 1	Aug 20: Intro and Syllabus Assign Cameras View Camera Basics	Aug 22: Loading Film Video: The True Meaning of Pictures
Week 2	Aug 27: Metering First Shot	Aug 29: Jobo / Film Development
Week 3	Sept 3: <b>NO CLASS! LABOR DAY</b>	Sept 5: Film Scanning Work Day
Week 4	Sept 10: Epson 9890 Demo Intro: Perspective Controls	Sept 12: Critique No. 2: First Shot
Week 5	Sept 17: Open Lab	Sept 19: Critique No. 3: Perspective Controls Intro: Plane of Focus Bring View Camera Have View Camera Handout Read
Week 6	Sept 24: Printing / Adjustment Layers Demo Open Lab	Sept 26: Critique No. 4: Plane of Focus Intro: Close-Up / Bellows Extension
Week 7	Oct 1: Open Lab	Oct 3: Critique No. 5: Close-Up Intro: Constructed Narrative
Week 8	Oct 8: <b>NO CLASS! FALL BREAK (Oct 6-9)</b>	Oct 10: Open Lab
Week 9	Oct 15: Critique No. 6: Constructed Narrative Intro: Final Project Assign Critique Groups Assign Reading	Oct 17: Quiz Discuss Reading Intro: Ordinary Moments Video: What Remains
Week 10	Oct 22: Open Lab	Oct 24: Critique No. 7: Ordinary Moments
Week 11	Oct 29: Open Lab	Oct 31: Critique No. 8: Large Scale
Week 12	Nov 5: Open Lab	Nov 7: Final In-Progress Crit (A)
Week 13	Nov 12: Open Lab	Nov 14: Final In-Progress Crit (B)
Week 14	Nov 19: Final In-Progress Crit (A)	Nov 21: <b>NO CLASS! THANKSGIVING (Nov 21-25)</b>
Week 15	Nov 26: Final In-Progress Crit (B)	Nov 28: Open Lab
Week 16	Dec 3: Work Day	Dec 5: Lab Clean Up REQUIRED!
	FINALS WEEK DEC 10 - 14	FINALS WEEK DEC 10 - 14

**FINAL CRITIQUE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM**

# PROJECT GRADING RUBRIC

## 1. TECHNOLOGY / CRAFT

Hardware/software tools applied with precision and control.

use of view-camera movements, exposure, tonality, contrast, focus, resolution, print quality, color-cast, craftsmanship, use of lighting, etc.

**5** = unacceptable, **6.5** = below average, **7.5** = average, **8.5** = above average, **10** = excellent

## 2. FORM / COMPOSITION

Sensitivity to and consideration of the visual elements.

line, shape, form, color, texture, composition, unity, dominance, contrast, repetition, cohesion, balance, rhythm, proportion, etc.

**5** = unacceptable, **6.5** = below average, **7.5** = average, **8.5** = above average, **10** = excellent

## 3. CONCEPT

Control of variables in achieving legible and expressive meaning.

originality, inventiveness, quality of idea, clarity of communication, time well spent – making and viewing?  
followed guidelines set forth by the assignment

**5** = unacceptable, **6.5** = below average, **7.5** = average, **8.5** = above average, **10** = excellent

Three components averaged together (10+10+10 / 3)

Total: \_\_\_ / 10