

# Problems in Photography

AB 316 • Section 0001 • 7890 • M/W 1:00pm - 3:29pm • Spring 2013  
Office: AB 314C • Hours by appointment  
Kimberly Turner • kimturner.art@gmail.com



Eva Timothy, *The Astronomer* from the series *Lost In Learning*

***“Beauty can be seen in all things, seeing and composing the beauty is what separates the snapshot from the photograph.” – Matt Hardy***

## **Course Description & Introduction**

Welcome! Problems in Photography is a self-directed study course. You are expected to be mature enough as a student and photographer to work independently on a sustained, self-directed project throughout the semester. If you do not feel technically sufficient, it is your responsibility to obtain the information needed to improve your craft by personal research or auditing photography demos in the studio courses.

Through individual meetings, lectures, readings, and self-directed research you are expected to pursue your individual interests while developing a photography-based portfolio. You are required to attend all scheduled meetings and it is essential that in class you show work that demonstrates your progress. Active participation in critiques and class discussions is crucial.

Outside of your independent project, you will also participate in readings, discussions, research and written work. This course is designed to help prepare you for the next advancement in your artistic endeavor. While building up your professional practices, and completing your project you will also work as a class to organize a group show to culminate the semester.

**This is more than a class; it is a community of people that share a common interest. The strength of the community is dependent on your willingness to participate and actively engage in constructive conversation to learn from one another.**

(Pre-Requisite: ARTD 413, ARTD 419 or consent of school)

## Course Requirements

Your attendance to individual meetings and critique days is mandatory, these are the days you will be gaining the most one-on-one help from me as well as peer response. This is an independent study course with no class time allotted for physical work. All shooting and editing must be done outside of class hours. Be sure that you are able to commit an average of at least 10 hours of outside time, per week, towards this course. If this seems like too much time, I would suggest withdrawing. This time includes reading, research, planning, sketching, shooting, editing and printing time. *Always be prepared with work to show and discuss during class time.* When an assignment is due, it must be turned in and/or ready for critique at the *beginning* of class. When readings are assigned, be prepared to discuss topics covered in the readings when expected. If you do not participate in discussions, I will assume you did not do the reading. Inevitably, this will count against your participation.

## Attendance Policy

Your attendance is critical for this course. You are *permitted 3 absences* without penalty (unless the absence falls on a critique day, in this case your project will be considered late and your project will drop one letter grade for each class until it is turned in.) *After 3 absences, your final grade will drop one full letter for each absence (ie. if you have an A, it will drop to a B). If you miss 6 classes, it is recommended you withdraw from the course, or you will obtain an "F" for your final grade. Three late entries (10 minutes) and/or early exits to class will count as an absence.* **Attendance during critiques is mandatory.** *If you do not bring work to show on critique days or progress days, you will be considered unprepared and absent.*

Please provide a legitimate doctors note or official documentation from the school if you miss class due to illness or other circumstances. If you know in advance that you must miss a class, please contact me via email.

**Please contact your peers to catch up on the materials that you missed due to an absence. You are responsible to acquire any missed information because of your attendance.**

## Respect and Courtesy

I will not tolerate the misuse of cell phones/Mp3 players/electronic devices during this course. Please turn them off before class begins. If there is an emergency situation where you need to be available for contact, *please let me know in advance.* **Absolutely no headphones during lectures, discussions or critiques.** Checking Facebook, email, the Huskies game, etc. is not an acceptable use of class time. Disobeying any of the stated could result in classroom temporary confiscation of your electronic device, and/or count against your attendance and participation grade.

I will not tolerate personal attacks during critiques or class discussions. The classroom environment is meant to be open to suggestions and opinions. In return, please do not misinterpret criticism of your art as an attack on you personally. Your peers and myself are here to help you reflect and analyze your work in ways to hopefully improve it.

## Lab Policy

When working in the computer lab, no food or uncovered drinks are allowed at the computers. You should *never have food or drinks in the darkroom.* This can lead to possible health injuries.

The labs are shared by a lot of people; we each have to take part in the upkeep of the equipment.

It's fine to transfer files that you are working on to the desktop, but do not forget to transfer them back onto your storage device before you leave the lab. **Do not leave files on the desktop. There is a high chance they will be deleted. Clean up after yourselves. Do not leave trash lying around. If you use the darkroom, clean up any mess you may have made.**

Please give your respect and patience to your peers, faculty and lab monitors.  
*Theft or damage of the school's or personal property will not be tolerated.*

## Grading Policy

Your final grade will depend on the time and effort that you put into this course. Your work will be graded on the assignments criteria and the assigned objectives, your development and articulation of your ideas, the presentation and craft of your work, your ambition towards the projects, and your progression throughout the semester. Your participation will be based on your active input during critiques, coming to class prepared and with materials to work on if it is a work day, turning in assignments on time, completing assigned readings, paying attention to lectures and demos, and actively taking part in class discussions and activities.

Assignments are due at the *beginning* of class on the due date. On these days you are expected to come into class prepared to present your work. *I only accept work late if you have a legitimate excuse and note from a doctor or the university for missing critique. You will be expected to turn in work the following class.*

All photographs that you turn in must have been taken with your project in mind. Any photographs that were taken for external purposes or prior to the said assignment will not count if turned in and will count against your project grade.

Resume/CV	7%	70 points	Total = 1,000 points
Art Submission	10%	100 points	
Research Presentation	10%	100 points	
Exhibition Cooperation	9%	90 points	
Website	9%	90 points	
Project Portfolio & Artist Statement	45%	450 points	
Participation/Preparation	10%	100 points	

## Grading Standards

A (90 - 100%) exceptionally fine work: Outstanding achievement against all course learning objective.

B (80 - 89%) Above average work: Superior achievement against most course learning objectives.

C (70 - 79%) Average work: good, meets most course objectives at a basic level.

D (60 – 69%) Below average work: noticeably weak, fails to meet most course learning objectives.

F (Below 60%) Clearly deficient against all course learning objectives.

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) is conditional. (According to the 2012-13 UG Catalog: “must be cleared no later than 200 calendar days from the end of the term in which the student received the grade...” According to the 2012-13 GRAD Catalog: “In no case may the deadline be later than 120 days after the last day of final examinations during the term for which the incomplete is assigned. The incomplete must be removed within 120 days.”). After the deadline, the “I” becomes an “F.”

The grade of “W” (Withdrawal) appears on grade reports when students withdraw from a class by the withdrawal deadline.

## Extra Credit

You are able to make up one absence or up to 15 points by attending three artist lectures or art exhibitions. Along with attending the events, you must write a one-page (single spaced) response for each event. You must have the events approved by me and the reviews must receive a passing grade to count towards the extra credit.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is a type of cheating that involves the use of another person's ideas, words, design, art, music, etc., as one's own in whole or in part without acknowledging the author or obtaining his or her permission. Plagiarism is not just restricted to written text, but is applicable to other works such as ideas, design, art, and music.

### Types of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can occur in many ways:

1. Direct plagiarism
2. Direct "patchwork" plagiarism
3. Insufficient citation of partial quotations
4. Paraphrasing (or summarizing) without citing sources
5. Insufficient citation of paraphrase (or summary)
6. Plagiarism of graphs, charts, figures, or images
7. Misinterpretation of material as "common knowledge"

©2005 Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, Northern Illinois University. All Rights Reserved.

Students guilty of plagiarism may suffer a grade penalty or in extreme cases be reported for academic misconduct to the *Office of Cumminity Standards & Student Conduct*. Academic misconduct can result in dismissal from the university.

## **Disability Statement**

N.I.U. abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which mandates reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Students with a documented disability on file with the University need to meet individually with the instructor during the first week of classes to discuss special needs to attain appropriate accommodations for optimum achievement and success in this course.

Students with disabilities need to register with the N.I.U. Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR), located on the fourth floor of the University Health Services (815-753-1303), the designated office on campus to provide services and accommodations to students with diagnosed disabilities.

Your success as a student is of utmost importance to me. If you have a disability or any other special circumstance that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that accommodations can be made in a timely manner. You should note, however that accommodations may not be made if you have not registered with CAAR.

## **Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is both a guide and a legal contract. While every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course unanticipated circumstances or events may make it necessary for me (the instructor) to modify the syllabus during the semester. Such circumstances may arise as a consequence of the progress, needs, or experiences of the students, or may result from other extraneous circumstances. Changes to the syllabus will be made with advance notice so as not to disadvantage students. Should the indicated change present any unanticipated difficulties please contact me immediately.

***"You've got to push yourself harder. You've got to start looking for pictures nobody else could take. You've got to take the tools you have and probe deeper." – William Albert Allard***

## Supply list

**Text:** *Art/Work* by Heather Darcy Bhandari and Jonathan Melber

*The Practical Handbook for the Emerging Artist : Second Edition* by Margaret R. Lazzari

**Camera** (type will be determined by your project proposal)

**Sketchbook** (Around 6" x 9" or 8.5" x 11")

The rest of your supplies should be determined by the project you are proposing. We have the resources for you to work with digital or analog processes. Think about the approach to photography you would like to take. Will you be working traditionally or non-traditionally? Will you be creating prints or installations? Your process will determine your supplies. You are expected to know what you need to create professional quality prints, and obtain those goods as you need them. Keep in mind that you will need at least 20 finalized prints or work of the equivalent amount at the end of the semester. This does not mean that you will only need 20 sheets of paper for the whole semester. You will produce test prints, and there will be other photos that you print that might not be included in your final series. Remember to obtain print cards from the Bursars Office.

\$\$To save cash, don't be afraid to buy items used, just be sure the seller is trustworthy and the equipment is in working condition.\$\$

***\*Remember to put your name on all of your supplies, everybody's supplies look alike!\****

## Useful Resources

### Stores

B&H Photo - [www.bhphotovideo.com](http://www.bhphotovideo.com)

Freestyle Photo - [www.freestylephoto.biz](http://www.freestylephoto.biz)

Calumet - [www.calumetphoto.com](http://www.calumetphoto.com)

Ritz Camera - [www.ritzcamera.com](http://www.ritzcamera.com)

[www.bookbyte.com](http://www.bookbyte.com)

[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### Websites / Blogs / Magazines

500 Photographers - <http://500photographers.blogspot.com/>

Photo Eye - <http://www.photoeye.com/>

Burn - <http://www.burnmagazine.org/>

Conscientious - <http://www.jmcolberg.com/weblog/>

SeeSaw Magazine - <http://www.seesawmagazine.com/>

Beautiful Decay - <http://beautifuldecay.com/>

Hyperallergic - <http://hyperallergic.com/>

Society for Photographic Education - <https://www.spenational.org/>

Exposure Compensation - <http://exposurecompensation.com/>

Shots Magazine - <http://www.shotsmag.com/>

Aperture Magazine

Camerawork

Lenswork

Eyemazing - [www.eyemazing.com](http://www.eyemazing.com)

Juxtapoz - <http://www.juxtapoz.com/>

100 Eyes - <http://www.100eyes.org/>

FlakPhoto - <http://www.flakphoto.com/>

C-Monster - <http://c-monster.net/>

### Founders Memorial Library

200 Carroll Ave. DeKalb, IL 60115 - 3rd Floor

#### Standard Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. - midnight

Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sat. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sun. 1 p.m. - midnight

Don't forget about Interlibrary loans! A great way to obtain great resources from libraries across the country.  
<http://www.ulib.niu.edu/services/ids-services.cfm>

*“Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I’m going to take tomorrow.” – Imogen Cunningham*

## **Semester Schedule**

\*This schedule is subject to change based on class needs\*

### **Week 1:**

**1/14 Mon:** Welcome! Intro to syllabus and each other. Discuss course materials and answer any questions. Discuss ideas for an exhibition. **Sign up for individual meetings for Wednesday.**

*Homework:* Write a One-Page Project Proposal for the semester. You should be focusing on one body of work throughout the entire semester.

\*Purchase the two texts required for the course.\*

**1/16 Wed:** **Due: Written Proposals. Individual meetings** to discuss proposals. Introduce Research Project.

*Homework:* Revise proposal if needed. Begin research and shooting. Start gathering supplies/contacts needed for your project.

Think of an idea for your research project.

Think about locations and ideas for the exhibition.

### **Week 2:**

**1/21 Mon:** **No Class Meeting - Martin Luther King Day**

**Due: Final Proposal Edition by email.** Sign up for Presentations by email. Delegate positions for organizing the end of semester the exhibition - talk about possible themes, locations, promotion, etc.- via Facebook group  
**Start contacting locations for the exhibition.**

**1/23 Wed:** Discuss the Artist Resume/CV.

*Homework:* Write 1st draft of your resume/CV

### **Week 3:**

**1/28 Mon: Due: Draft 1 of Resumes/CVs** for peer suggestions and opinions.

*Homework:* Revise and finalize Resume/CV.

**1/30 Wed: Due: Revised Resume/CV.** Introduce **Submission Assignment.** Discuss submission possibilities.

*Homework:* Start researching what you would like to submit to. Read corresponding chapters. Find at least 10 different opportunities that interest you. Begin working towards submissions.

### **Week 4:**

**2/4 Mon: Individual Meetings** - Discuss Submissions and project progress

*Homework:* Continue working on assignments and project.

**2/6 Wed: Individual Meetings** - Discuss Submissions and project progress

*Homework:* Continue working on assignments and project.

### **Week 5:**

**2/11 Mon: Crit group A** - have at least 5 completed photos to discuss

**2/13 Wed: Crit group B** - have at least 5 completed photos to discuss

### **Week 6:**

**2/18 Mon:** Updates on exhibition progress. Discuss the Artist Statement.

*Homework:* Reading. Begin writing artist statement.

**2/20 Wed: Workday** - I will be available for questions. You should be working on submissions, your artist statement and your project

*Homework:* Revise Artist Statement

## **Week 7:**

**2/25 Mon: Due: Artist Statement** for peer suggestions and review.

*Homework:* Revise Artist Statement

**2/27 Wed:** Individual meetings - midterm grades and progress

*Homework:*

## **Week 8:**

**3/4 Mon: Crit Group A - Have at least 5 new completed photographs & Revised Artist Statement to discuss (bring old photos too)**

*Homework:* Continue working on your project.

**3/6 Wed: Crit Group B - Have at least 5 new completed photographs & Revised Artist Statement to discuss (bring old photos too)**

*Homework:* Continue working on your project.

## **Week 9: SPRING BREAK**

**3/11 Mon:**

**3/13 Wed:**

## **Week 10:**

**3/18 Mon:** Presentations

*Homework:* Reading

**3/20 Wed:** Presentations

*Homework:* Reading.

## **Week 11:**

**3/25 Mon: Discuss readings, Artist Websites and the online portfolio. Discuss art publicity and social media.**

Homework: Decide on a website platform, begin building your site.

**3/27 Wed:** Update on exhibition progress. **Discuss promotion and start promoting.**

*Homework:* Assigned Reading. Find an Photo related object or book that you would like to share and discuss for Show and Tell.

## **Week 12:**

**4/1 Mon:** Discuss Reading. **Show and Tell**

*Homework:* Catch up on work

**4/3 Wed: Workday -** I am available for questions. You should be working on your submissions assignment if you haven't stated it yet.

*Homework:* Continue working on your submissions, website and Project.

## **Week 13:**

**4/8 Mon: Mini-crit For Everyone - bring the work you still need feedback on and questions you have for your peers.**

*Homework:* Complete revisions on your artist statement with comments from crit in mind.

**4/10 Wed: Peer review of revised artist statement.**

*Homework:* Continue revising your artist statement, working on your website, and your project.

**Week 14:**

**4/15 Mon:** Individual meetings

**4/17 Wed:** Individual meetings

**Week 15:** (possible week for exhibition)

**4/22 Mon:** Update and final organization for the Exhibition. Bring in work you plan to hang in the show.

*Homework:* Finalize Website, continue working on Project.

**4/24 Wed:** Present Completed Websites. Turn in files and info for Submission Assignment if you haven't yet.

*Homework:* Finalize your Project and Artist Statement

**Week 16:** (possible week for exhibition)

**4/29 Mon:** Final Crit Group A - Present finalized Project with Artist Statement

**5/1 Wed:** Final Crit Group B - Present Finalized Project with Artist Statement

**Week 17: Finals Week** (possible week for exhibition)

**5/6 Mon:** No meeting

**5/8 Wed:** Noon - 1:50pm is our allotted exam time. Please meet at noon to pick up your projects.