

CRITIQUE PREPARATION

Critiques are where everyone shows their final selection of photographs for the given topic and everyone else comments on them. The idea is for everyone to work together to make all the photographs better. There is no one point of view that is correct in the Art world. It takes input from everyone in the class for us to learn how our photographs are being received. It is a matter of communication and peer review. If the feedback you are receiving is close to what you intended your photographs to say, then you are doing well. If you are getting a very different response, or people are missing your point, then you need further refinement in aesthetics and technique.

You should be constantly posting photographs and looking at what everyone else is posting. This class is based in experiential learning. You cannot learn how to do this just by reading about it. You have to DO it, receive feedback, and then refine your work.

OVERVIEW

Here is an overview of what has to be accomplished during the next week, and during all critique weeks in the semester. It may look like a lot when all viewed at once, but take it one day and one task at a time and it is easy.

Monday

Every fourth Monday is the due date of the next Critique. The posting should be done by 5 PM. Before this date you should go through everything you have posted on-line (there should be more than the minimum number of prints already on-line) and edit down to the actual number of prints due (or a little bit over if desired).

- the full number of prints required for the critique should now be uploaded
- reorganize the photos by content
 - see the minimum number of prints on the Semester Schedule
 - > [Smartphone Photography](#) / Semester Schedule for your section
you should have this Schedule printed and posted on your wall
- add numbers above each of your prints so people can easily vote for their favorite

Tuesday

You have a day to look at what everyone has posted for their critique and formulate ideas about what they have done. You then have to make **COMMENTARY** on the photos of your classmates. The commenting period ends at 5 PM on Tuesday.

- look at other people's photos and comment on them
 - base the commentary on 3 criteria: content, form, impact [3 Disciplines]
 - > [Commenting & Voting](#)
 - tell any story that the photos remind you of:
(sharing personal experience: resonance)
- cast a vote for at least 10 people in the class. Indicate which shot you think is their best
- if you see someone already has 5 comments, go on to someone else
 - this will assure that everyone receives the same number of comments

note: no one will want to comment on your photos if you do not comment on theirs. This is another variation of the Golden Rule.

CRITIQUE PREPARATION, cont'd.

Thursday

You have two days to review all the comments you have received and write a Self-Evaluation that presents a synthesis of these reviews. The SELF-EVALUATIONS are due by 5 PM.

- review all the comments you have received
- write a synopsis of that commentary, again based on 3 criteria: form, content, impact
 - there is a handout explaining how to write a self-evaluation
 - > [Self-Evaluations](#)
- determine which of your prints is the best (according to peer voting)
 - The votes cast by your classmates in their comments on the class blog will help you determine which photo is the 'best of the week'
 - This photo is designated your POW (Picture of the Week)
- include the POW at the top the Self-Evaluation document
- please write the Self-Evaluation in MS Word
 - use 12 point type
 - use 1.5 line spacing (under Paragraph Formatting)
- start the document with a header as follows:
Your Name
Smartphone Photo 2831-section #, Crit 1 - B&W: Mystery
- name the file in a similar manner:
your name_self evaluation - crit 1 - section#.docx
- upload the finished Self-Evaluation document to OWLbox
 - there is a separate folder for each critique

Fridays are the introduction days of new TOPICS including aesthetics, techniques, ways of shooting, ways of processing (apps), etc. You should study and absorb this information quickly and, in a day or two, start shooting, processing and posting your photos to the class blog. You should shoot and post every day. That is part of the routine of this class.

You can only really learn about photography by thinking, shooting, and posting on an ongoing manner [think, make, share]. This is an Art Studio course and it utilizes 'experiential learning' that is quite different from the 'book learning' as in most academic classes. Because of this, it is not possible to cram for a studio class. You cannot wait until the day before the Critique is due to shoot everything. If you try this you will never learn how to shoot properly let alone how to think about what you are shooting or feel what your photos are expressing. Do not cheat yourself out of the education you are paying for.

note: All students must participate in and complete all phases of each Critique cycle. Failure to complete any segment results in failure of the entire critique.

note: All Topics are defined and available on the professor's web site at all times. If you want a head-start you are welcome to read those.