

PGY 2401C-02, Fall 2008
Andrew Ross, instructor

Project 2: First Prints

Now that you are developing a grasp of your camera, its controls, and film processing and printing, you are ready to bring all of these components together into true image-making. You should be looking for subjects that interest you, exploring how the camera (and specifically, your unique way of using the camera) redefines that subject into black & white photography. You should be experimenting with the camera controls to try to have your desired effect on the recorded image. And you should start to think about elements of composition when making these images.

I also want to see that you have developed an understanding of the techniques of film developing and printing. If there are failures along the way, that's fine. But learn from your failures and keep working at it until the results you are achieving satisfy the needs of producing a good silver-based negative and print. Maybe this means you have to shoot more, develop more, print more – but repetition will certainly lead to growth and improvement.

For your “First Prints”, I want you to particularly work on the craft of producing a great silver print. Spend a lot of time in the darkroom, and don't accept your first print or two as “good enough”. See how tools such as contrast filters, dodging and burning, and/or split-filtering can enhance your image. Consider the presentation of your images in print form – cropping (or not), horizontal/vertical format, how they look as a group, etc. A theme amongst the 5 images that you present is not essential, but it can definitely enhance the overall effect.

You will need to have 5 prints (8x10”) for our critique and to turn in for grading. Although this is a more technical project based around perfecting the printing process, I also want to see your creativity in the images you make and capture. You will turn in all of your negatives and contact sheets (at least 2 usable rolls worth) along with your final prints.

Due Date: Monday, 29 September

Be sure to bring your 9x12” envelope for submitting your project!!!