

**Common Course Outline**  
**PHTO 210**  
**Medium & Large Format Photography**  
**4 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**Medium and Large Format Photography**

This course is designed for photography students who plan to work with the professional film formats using 120/220 roll films and 4x5 sheet films, otherwise known as medium and large format photography. The course is designed to prepare students as commercial photography assistants, as well as introducing students to the higher quality images that can be achieved by the use of larger cameras. Additionally, the course will strengthen student skills in: studio lighting, selection of studio props and backgrounds, light and flash meters, tungsten and electronic flash systems and the related B&W and color darkroom skills previously learned in lower level courses by developing and printing 120 and 4x5 size negatives. Projects emphasize the balance between the medium and large format assignments. Students should recognize the need for each camera format provided the differences in the shooting assignments. All types of B&W and color films will be used throughout the semester resulting in color transparencies, color negatives and B&W negatives. Prints are made in both the color and B&W labs.

4 credits: lecture two hours/week and lab 4 hours/week; use of the “open lab” for additional laboratory work. Prerequisite: PHTO 201, (PHTO 200 is an excellent co-requisite course) or consent of the Program Director.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- a. Operate both medium and large format cameras and their accessories.
- b. Properly select the appropriate film for each camera given the assignment and use of light for the subject.
- c. Determine film exposure, given the film reciprocity, the filter factor and the bellows compensation used with hand held exposure meters in both reflected and incident modes of operation.
- d. Properly process B&W 120 and 4x5 films in the laboratory and make prints from negatives and make prints from 120 and 4x5 films in both B&W and color labs and proper use of a Polaroid film holder for proofing.
- e. Plan and execute a major “photographic illustration” of an academic program on campus for potential print publication.
- f. Name the popular focal length lenses used for both the medium and large format cameras.
- g. Properly load roll film cameras and sheet film holders.
- h. Given a 3-dimensional object and a 4x5 camera, control tilts, rise/fall of lens and film back, swings of lens and film back and critical focus with a loupe and a focusing cloth.

- i. Prepare a quality portfolio of work produced during the course that can be used for graduation and employment in this market segment of photography.

## **Major Topics**

Course work includes the following activities

1. Studio table-top photography; use of studio accessories to include light panels, tripods, stands, fill cards, light banks, strip lights, soft boxes and exposure meters.
2. Film selection, loading, processing and printing both B&W and color images.
3. Solving complicated lighting by sampling some commercial photography assignments using the *Dean Collins Fine Light* series.
4. Properly completing interior and exterior architectural assignments.
5. Identifying the parts of a medium and large format camera and how to correctly use the camera for a specific assignment.
6. Planning a major shoot for a large format program illustration of an academic program on campus and the 120-film portrait of a Program Director either in the studio or on-location.
7. Producing a quality portfolio of work from the course that is at the introductory level of a professional commercial photographer.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Complete all assignments by working in designated groups for studio work as well as individual assignments for other projects.
2. Students must come to class with the proper film(s) and supplies required for each assignment.
3. When a student is absent from a class, it is his/her responsibility to make up the missed assignment on time and to be prepared for the following class session.
4. Students are responsible at all times for the correct use of equipment while in class or during the time they remove equipment from the studio for on-location use. Improper use of equipment or the return of broken equipment may result in the repair or replacement of the equipment, the cost of which will be assumed by the student. Use equipment in a proper and safe manner as described in class.
5. Assignments are due at mid-term and the 13 and 14th week of class in a professional looking print portfolio. Transparencies are to be mounted in 4x5 frames that are part of the portfolio.
6. Students are required to be present for all scheduled class critiques and to participate in discussions and have the necessary materials for each critique.

## **Other Course Information**

PHTO 210 is a required course for the Photography degree and is usually offered in the Fall semester once each year.