

Common Course Outline

PHTO 240

Color Lab Techniques

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Color Lab Techniques

This course is designed for photography students who wish to enhance and broaden their color darkroom and printing skills. Various color lab operations, maintenance of automatic film and roller transport processors, and various printmaking techniques will be studied. Individual students under the direction of the instructor manage laboratory operations during the semester each week. This course is an intermediate elective.

3 credits: 1-hour lecture and 3 hours of lab each week. Prerequisite: PHTO 201, or consent of the instructor.

Overall Course Objectives

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

- a. Understand the basic operating and printing principles of the color laboratory.
- b. Understand how to prepare and use color chemistry.
- c. Setup, maintain, clean and shut down automatic processors during regular class periods.
- d. Monitor the color chemistry during a lab period by performing quality control procedures.
- e. Troubleshoot minor enlarger problems and to change bulbs as necessary.
- f. Describe in written form the duties of a laboratory technician for a color lab.
- g. Given two incorrect color/density prints, identify the methods of color correction and exposure for improved quality prints.
- h. Create a final color print with no more than three attempts.

Major Topics

1. Learning the operation of a modern color lab with: dichroic enlargers, automatic film and print processors and the required maintenance for daily use.
2. Producing a quality portfolio of color prints.

Course Requirements

1. Use the laboratory to effectively enhance individual prints for a portfolio.
2. Create quality color prints by using a “filter finder” technique or a color analyzer.
3. Create a portfolio of 8 to 10 prints that exhibit correct color and print exposure.
4. Prior to class setup the color lab and at the conclusion of the class close down the lab by washing down processors under the direction of the instructor.
5. Students are responsible for two critiques: mid-term and a final.

Other Course Information

This is an elective course that may be used by students who have past experience in a color lab and desire to update their skills. Some students may enroll in this class to obtain access to the color lab so that they may complete a portion of a class in which they received an “incomplete” grade.