Black-and-White Photography
6 weeks, 2.5 hour classes, 2 Saturday field trips.
Instructor: Neal Menschel, Photojournalist/Photographer

This is a six-week course meeting every Wednesday from 7 PM to 9:30 PM beginning on September 28th and running through November 2nd. I will be available after each class for questions, and in between sessions via email.

There will be two field trips for this class, both on Saturdays one at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve in Half Moon Bay on Saturday, Oct. 8th and the second one in San Francisco on Saturday, Oct. 22nd.

There are no required texts for this course, however the instructor requests that students take some time to specifically look for examples of Black & White photography. A list of several examples of B & W photographers with internet links will be emailed after registration. This will be considered your first assignment.

Materials Requirements:
• A digital camera, preferably a DSLR.
• Either a wide angle to telephoto zoom or at least two lenses, a wide angle and a short telephoto. Ideally you should have the capacity of a wide angle going from at least 28mm, to a short telephoto of somewhere around 80 to 135mm. These are 35 mm film equivalents.
• Camera flash cards with at least 16 gigs of memory.
• Lap top, or access to a computer with simple photo editing capabilities. Examples might be Apple Aperture or iPhoto or Apple Photo. Adobe Light Room is the most popular and desirable of the post-production/editing software that is out there and there are many others.
• 4 to 8 gig portable thumb drive.
• A shoe mount flash is handy but not necessary.
If there are any questions or need for clarification you can email the instructor.

Requirements for a Letter Grade and/or Credit: There are three options for grades or credits:
• No Grade Requested (this is the default option) no work is required; No credit shall be received; No proof of attendance can be provided. (Not suitable for those requiring proof of attendance/completion).
• To receive a letter grade, (A, B, C, D, No Pass) weekly assignments must be completed and reviewed.
• Credit/No Credit - attendance and participation (as determined by the instructor) is required.

Goals and Objectives: The main goal is to create meaningful and compelling black and white images that take on a purity of content where light and shadow, texture, form and composition, and character and gesture rule, and by so doing, mastering the necessary methodology, strategies, and skills to make it happen.

• NOTE: For the first two classes the instructor will be available outside the classroom 2 hours early to meet with students and to go over any tech questions that students may have.
WEEK ONE  
Sept. 28, Wed. – 7:00pm  
7:00pm to 9:30pm –  
• Syllabus review  
• Lecture: Introductory photo session, bring equipment, and questions. What are everyone’s expectations, goals and how do we get there from here. Discuss, content driven visuals.  
• Discussion surrounding the “why” of B&W photography  
• Brief history of Black & White photography with slide show.  
• Film vs Digital and digital conversion. Shooting in raw.  
• Conversation about the first assignment - Links emailed before first class  
• Lecture/discussion of the basics of compositional guidelines, specifically what happens within the rectangle: aspects of Layering, Edges, Divisions, Space, Shape, Lines, Tone, Tonal Contrast, and Patterns with handout.  
• Slideshow illustrating the varied aspects of composition  
• 1st Assignment: composition  
• Assignment is due Oct. 5th, three photographs. Each photograph must illustrate a different aspect of composition as discussed in class. Can be any of the genres as interpreted by the B & W process covered in this course: nature and landscape, portraiture, documentary, still life, and street photography.

WEEK TWO  
Oct. 5, Wed. – 7:00pm  
• Discussion of first assignment experiences with Composition  
• Review of student work  
• Discussion: Genres of Nature photography – social consciousness to beauty.  
• Thinking out of the box – Making the ordinary extra-ordinary!  
• Lens choices - focal length – from tele/wide to macro, aperture, Shutter speed  
• Time, place, mood, and ambiance, light, tone, texture, and composition  
• Slide show of B & W nature/landscape photography illustrating the varied aspects of time, place, mood, ambiance, subject choice, and composition  
• 3rd Assignment The natural world, Due next week, Jan. 27th. 3 photos, each one illustrating a different aspect of this evenings class discussion.  
• Conversation about the Oct. 8th field trip (next Saturday) to the Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve, Half Moon Bay, with Handouts.

WEEK THREE  
Oct 12, Wed. – 7:00pm  
• Debriefing of field trip to Purisima  
• Review of student work  
• The nature of light - direction, quality, quantity  
• Lighting, Natural and Artificial, Light modifiers, flash, reflectors, scrims, boxes, umbrellas, dishes, on and off camera light  
• Digital editing hand out  
• Slide show of examples illustrating portraiture.  
• Third Assignment: “A Portrait.” Results due following week, Oct. 19th. Three photographs revealing insightfully who the subject is...  
  1. Tight, VERY tight, revealing headshot  
  2. Give a sense of the subject through body language and/or gestures.
3. Create a view of a person as they relate to their environment.

WEEK FOUR
Oct 19, Wed. – 7:00pm
- Discussion of Portrait assignment with review of student work
- Street Photography – Responding to the ironies, paradoxes, and subtle emotions played out in everyday life on the “street”
- Hand out of legal aspects of photographing in public
- Discussion of fieldwork, ethics, photography and the law
- A brief and somewhat biased media presentation on the history of street photography according to the instructor.
- More place, more character
- Timing and Activity: All of our photographs take place in CA, in the present. Media presentation of examples of the Street with emphasis on Time, Place, and Activity
- People or no People... Architecture
- Video: Bruce Gilden and Eric Kim
- 4th Assignment: Could be from field trip, but not necessary. 3 photos
- Brief conversation with handouts about next Saturday’s. (the 22nd) 9:00am field trip, SF Market Street. Meet in front of the main entrance, under the clock tower, to the Ferry Building on Embarcadero in SF, at 9am.

WEEK FIVE
Oct 26, Wed. – 7:00pm.
- Debriefing of the San Francisco street experience with student review
- Documentary, Details, and/or Sports
- Discussion of the Photo Essay Documentary – How to create the narrative
- Sports Photography, What it takes, mental and physical
- Review of content driven images with handout
- Examples of documentary photography and the photo essay
- The world of Still Life and Macro: from the kitchen, home, neighborhood, to the parking, lot and beyond. It’s where you find it, anywhere.
- The reduction of details in B & W
- Slide show with examples for “details”
- Examples of documentary photography and the photo essay
- 5th assignment due Nov. 2nd, a story in 3 photos, personal, or sports related

For next week, bring in 8 of your VERY BEST photos taken during the class for inclusion in the class online gallery. CD or Jump Drive.

WEEK SIX
Nov 2, Wed. – 7:00pm
- Review of the final assignment, Documentary, Sports, and Details
- Discussion of personal style. Where does it come from, how to develop it.
- Discussion of publishing on demand, portfolios, websites, workshops, and other resources. Handouts