

# SM3710: LARGE FORMAT PHOTOGRAPHY

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## Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Large Format Photography

### Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

### Course Number

3710

### Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

### College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

SM2720 Black and White Photography

### Precursors

SM1013 Introduction to Photography or GE1129 Creative Photography

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This specialised photography class focusses on the potential of large format cameras, analogue and digital. We will explore how this traditional technique may be used in a creative and conceptual way, after mastering the technical foundation.

**Objectives:**

- You will continue the path toward a strong personal style and visual form of expression.
- Advanced exposure and development techniques of large format film
- Demonstrate the proper use of the camera movements to advance and influence your images
- Reveal an evident connection between technical choices and subject matter
- Print large scale images in the darkroom and/or digitally, that showcase a high level of detail and large format attributes.
- Create a body of large format photography suitable for a professional artistic portfolio
- Make connections between your own artistic practice, theory and contemporary artists
- Develop a strong ability to describe, interpret and evaluate photographic work
- Experiment and explore how this this technique can be combined with interactive media

The lectures will provide the technical foundation and its advantages to better understand the advancements of recent camera developments.

It will open up the creative agenda and generate discussions. You will be given technical and creative exercises to produce high-quality large format photographs. We will also examine the conceptual process of the photographic pioneers during the historic development and contemporary art. You will reflect on your own understanding through independent creative exercises in a workshop environment through traditional and digital means.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Create images and series employing large format photographic practice, analogue and digital			x	
2	Apply large format camera techniques in creating original images			x	
3	Define the distinct specifications of applying large format photography techniques in regard to image composition and concept, considering relevant photographers			x	x
4	Translate your observations to individual works with creative output to develop your own interest and style		x		x
5	Examine and explore the visual vocabulary from large format photography and its most recent developments		x	x	
6	Understand the technique and specifications of this medium		x	x	
7	Conduct extra research on the subject in relation to one's own experience as a step towards new projects and development and for further exploration of the subject		x	x	x

**A1: Attitude**

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

**A2: Ability**

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

**A3: Accomplishments**

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Introduction to the specifications, techniques and concepts, historic and contemporary applications	1, 6, 7	1 hr/wk
2	Student presentation	Research and presentation of classic and contemporary photographic masters and trends	2, 3, 7	1/2 hr/wk
3	Workshop	Hands on application of the learned techniques and concepts	3, 5, 6, 7	1 hr/wk
4	Discussion, review and critique	Group discussion and feedback for development and improvement of individual creative projects	2, 5, 6, 7	1/2 hr/wk

### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Assignment 1: Handling the large format camera	1, 2, 6	10	-	Yes
2	Assignment 2: Quizz	1, 2, 6	10	-	Yes
3	Assignment 3: Optimising the exposure	1, 2, 6	10	-	Yes
4	Assignment 4: Optimising Image and composition	1, 2, 3, 6	10	-	Yes
5	Assignment 5: Mastering advanced camera techniques	1, 2, 6, 7	10	-	Yes
6	Independent Project, research, concept, execution, doumentation and presentation	1, 6, 7	40	-	Yes
7	Participation and presentation of a research topic	3, 5	10	-	Yes

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

**Assessment Task**

1. Photographer's Critique & Presentation

**Criterion**

This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

- Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative
- Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management
- Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

- Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter
- Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition
- Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

- Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter
- Fair organization, weak structure and composition
- Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and diction, fair time-management

**Marginal (D)**

- Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter
- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management

**Failure (F)**

- Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter
- No organization, structure or/and composition
- Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management

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**Assessment Task**

2. Photo Project

**Criterion**

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's proactively turning theory into praxis, to transform course material into self-owned authorship.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium

- Work raises questions and instill insights about the process of conception, creative strategization and production
- Innovative exploration by combining knowledge from different disciplines (e.g. mathematics, psychology, physics, anthropology, etc.) to create an inter-disciplinary project
- Efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

**Marginal (D)**

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Marginal ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

**Failure (F)**

- No appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium
- Fail to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Minimal adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

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**Assessment Task**

3. Theme Paper

**Criterion**

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student' s self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

- Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative
- Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis
- Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize
- Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
- Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

- Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions
- Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently
- Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

- Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts
- Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to interpret opinions

- Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

#### **Marginal (D)**

- Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts
- Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources
- Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
- Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography

#### **Failure (F)**

- Poor grasp of materials
- No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
- Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions
- Irrelevant bibliography

#### **Additional Information for AR**

All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

## **Part III Other Information**

#### **Keyword Syllabus**

- Repetition of analogue photography and darkroom processes (camera settings, film developing and contact printing)
- Introduction to unique features of large format photography
- Advanced photographic imaging (analogue and digital)
- Familiarising with related artists
- Short term exercises in theory and practice
- Development of independent project

#### **Reading List**

##### **Compulsory Readings**

<b>Title</b>	
1	Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual, Henry Horenstein TR146 .H793 1983
2	The Art of Enhanced Photography, beyond the photographic image, James Luciana, Judith Watts, TR.685. L83.1999
3	Stan Douglas Phaidon N6549 D68 1998
4	Photography as Fine Art, TR 650 P49 1983
5	The Abrams Encyclopedia of Photography, edited by Brigitte Govignon, Harry N Abrams Publishers
6	Photography with Large format Cameras. Kodak Manual

##### **Additional Readings**

<b>Title</b>	
1	Nil