

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

PHT 249 – NIGHT AND LOW LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY (3 CR.)

Course Description

Explores physical limits of photographic capture including exposure in low light and use of extended time values. Considers the role of these factors in the history, theory, and practice of the medium, as an art form and means of communication. Lecture 2 hours per week. Lab 2 hours per week. Total 4 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Examines advanced problems in controlling exposure in challenging conditions for practical, creative, and conceptual ends. Includes readings, technical and conceptual exercises, and individual creative projects. For AAS candidates and any student who is ready to take their photography practice to the next level. For AFA Visual Art students this course may transfer; even if students do not get credit for it upon transfer, having this type of work in their portfolio is likely to help students gain admission to baccalaureate programs related to photography.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

PHT 102 or permission of the instructor.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Explain physical limitations of low light capture
- Calculate time values for work in limited available light
- Use extended time values for various intents
- Make photographs using darkness to create a mood or effect
- Relate photographic work to that of historical and contemporary artists
- Propose and complete an extended individual project with group critiques

Major Topics to be Included

- How sensors and processors generate digital images
- Exposure compensation, ISO selection, vibration control
- Long exposures with and without supplemental light
- Emotional and dramatic aspects of darkness and shadows
- Historical and contemporary works of art related to low light and long exposure
- Problem-solving and creative decision-making