

PHOTO PRINTING

Name: _____ T.A.: _____
 Course: _____ Section: _____

Now that you've shot and processed your first roll of film, you're ready for the final step...ENLARGING your negatives and making actual prints. Developing your own black and white photographs in the darkroom is a great way to learn about photography and the process beyond taking the picture. For me, the darkroom is a place where I can relax, listen to music, and immerse myself in my work. Many people will tell you there is nothing equal to watching your image magically appear on the paper! This unit will teach you the basics of darkroom printing. It can be a tedious process, but the final result is well worth the time.

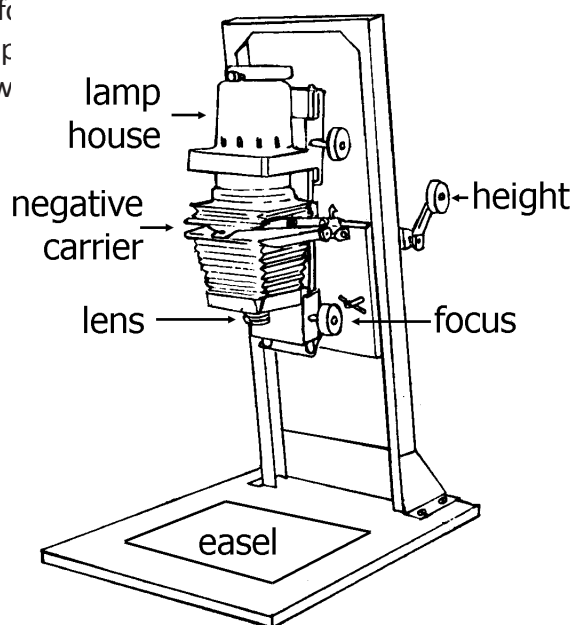
This unit will help prepare students to do learn black and white printing through an instructional seminar and a few darkroom activities. At the end of this unit student's level of comfort in the darkroom will increase as they will now have all the technical knowledge required for Black and White Photography.

Expectations:

- You will learn and use precise darkroom terminology for
- You will produce original photographic prints and adapt
- You will demonstrate competence in basic black and w

Activities:

1. Attend instructional seminar
2. Prepare and submit a contact sheet
3. Print 4 (4x5) images from the required shots (unit 3)
4. Select one image and create 3 contrast prints (4x5) using 3 different contrast filters (#2, 3, 4)
5. Complete an artist write up
6. Prepare portfolio for presentation and include test strips and film



Activity One: Attend Introductory Seminar

This seminar will introduce you to black and white printing and how to use the darkroom enlargers when printing 35 mm negatives. You will be shown the difference in contrast filters along with the techniques used to create successful black and white prints.

Activity Two: The Contact Sheet

In order to choose what negative you will print you need to make a contact sheet. This will be done by placing your negatives on top of photographic paper (shiny side up) and exposing the paper using the enlarger. Make sure to use the glass press so that your negatives have direct contact with the paper. This will ensure sharp results.

Activity Three: 4 Required Prints , 3.5 x 5 (1/4 of a full sheet of photo paper)

Pick 4 of the 8 required shots from unit 3. Be sure to pick the 4 best negatives. A good negative to print is in focus and has a good range of dark and light areas (technically known as dense and thin). Remember this is a NEGATIVE – the dark areas appear light, and the light areas appear dark. You will be expected to print these 4 images, and label them according to the type of required shot assignment.

Activity Four: 3 Contrast Filter Prints, 5x7 (half of the full photo paper sheet)

Contrast filters are used to regulate the amount of contrast added to your print. Contrast refers to the degree of difference between black and white tones. The higher contrast filters add more contrast to the image. Pick a good negative - one that you haven't used yet. Select your filter (for this unit you will work with filters #2, #3 and #4). Use one contrast filter at a time. The contrast filter can either be placed below the enlarger lens or it can rest over top of the negative carrier. NOTE: scratches and dust that appear on the filter will appear on the print, so please make sure to use clean filters. Follow all of the same steps for making a print as listed for activity 3. Record all of your results (aperture, time and filter #). You will need this later for your labels.

Activity Five: Reflection

Once you have done all of your printing and you're happy with the results, write about your first experience enlarging negatives. Explain what difficulties or challenges you encountered and how you managed in the darkroom. Explain what you noticed about the final results with your prints.

Activity Six: Portfolio

When you have finished all of the tasks you will neatly adhere your prints and tests along with your write-up in your portfolio. Make sure that every print is labeled and presented neatly.

Here is an example of a proper label:

Title:
F-Stop:
Filter:
Exposure Time:

Preparing the Negative:

- Center the image if you are using a border and think about composition when you cut out regions of the negative.
- Set up your negative. Place the negative with the shiny side up (the top of the curl) and upside down in the negative carrier. When you hold the carrier up to the light the negative should fill the open space and be upside down. Be sure to also dust off the negative and make sure that it is clean. Any dust marks will show up in your prints.
- Open the enlarger head by turning the knob on the left (or by pulling the lever towards you, depending on the type of enlarger).
- Put the negative carrier in the opening downward at a 20-degree angle. The carrier will fit snugly in the grooves made for it.
- Close the enlarger head and make sure it sits flush with the negative carrier.
- Open up the lens : there is an aperture ring on the lens, just like on your 35mm camera. Turn this ring all the way to the left SLOWLY WITHOUT FORCE. You will feel the clicks at each setting, usually at 4 (largest opening), 5.6, 8, 11, 16, etc.
- Once you can't turn it anymore, the aperture is all the way open. This lets the most light through, making it easier to focus your image.
- Adjust the height of the enlarger by turning the crank on the right side. This determines the size of your photo and how you are going to crop it.
- Frame the image in the easel because this is where your paper will go when you print.
- Focus the image by turning the knob on the right.
- Place the grain focuser on the easel to magnify a specific area and to check focus around the whole image. I like to check the focus of defined edges and high detail areas.
- Scan the image and decide where to place the first test strip. Pick an area that has important detail and equal lighting on the length of your strip (I make my test strips 1 ½" x 8").
- You may need to make multiple test strips in different areas to get an accurate result with some difficult negatives.
- Once you have focused the image and have everything set the way you like it, it is time to "stop down" the lens. We do this by adjusting the aperture to a smaller opening. I generally print at "2 clicks down", which is at F 8.0. This allows 1/4 of the light allowed at all the way open (F 4.0). Adjusting the aperture to a smaller opening lets you have more precise timing, making it easier to get an exact exposure.

Making a Test Strip

- Turn off the light and pull out a piece of paper.
- If you haven't already, cut the paper into 1-1 ½ inch strips the short way (this produces more test strips). Your test strips should be around 1½" x 8" if you are using 8" x 10" paper.
- Place the strip on the easel (in your predetermined area) with the shiny side up.

MAKE SURE YOUR OTHER PHOTO PAPER IS AWAY IN A LIGHT TIGHT CONTAINER.

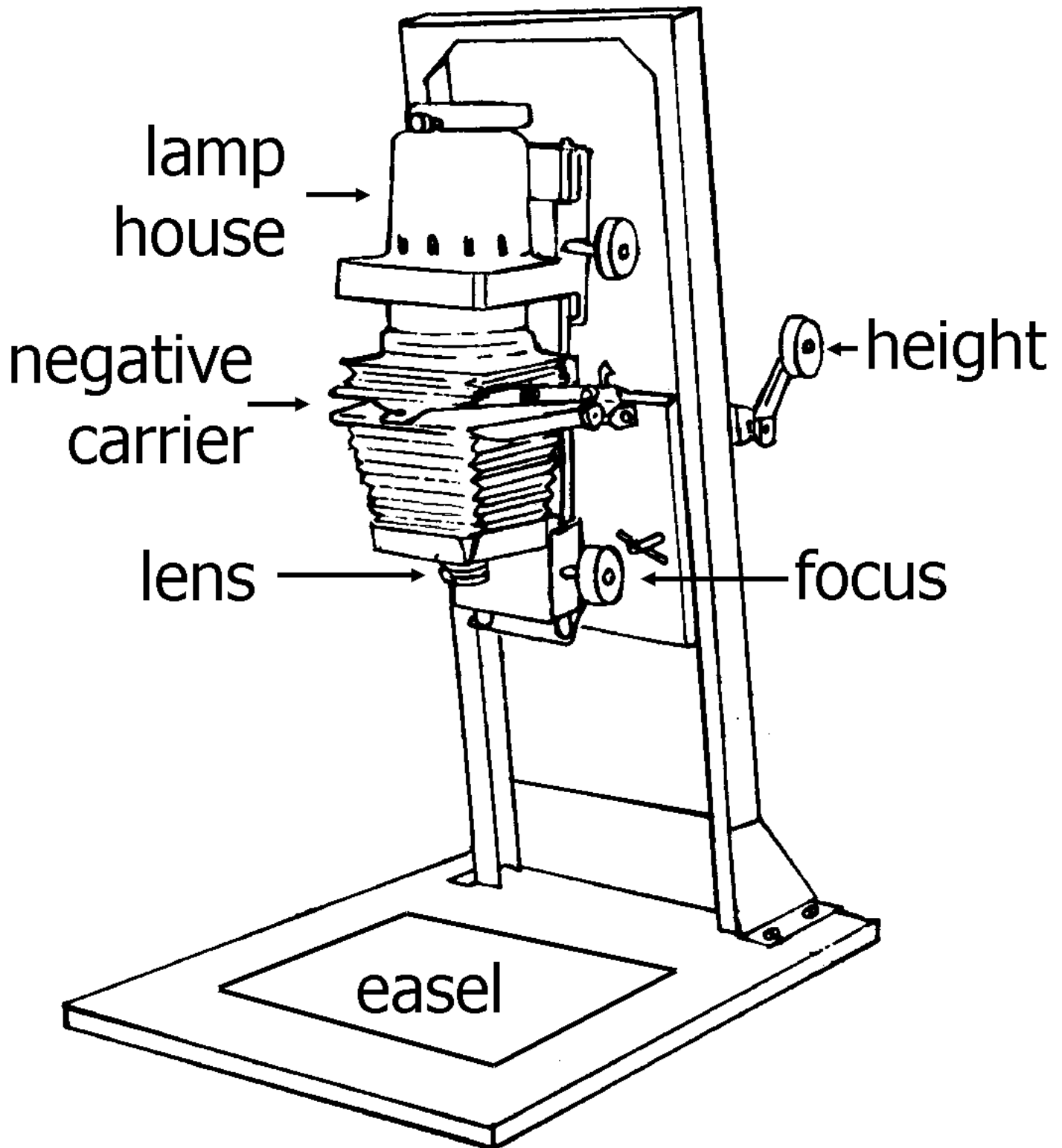
- Take your black card (or cardboard) and cover the entire test strip except for roughly 1½". DO NOT TOUCH THE PAPER.
- Turn on the light, count 5 seconds, and move the black card so another equal section is exposed to the light. Do this until the whole strip is exposed.
- Turn off the light after the last section is exposed. Be sure to keep track the number of intervals used.
- * If you are using a timer, set the timer for 5 seconds and move the card 1½" each time you press the timer.

Making the Print

- Once you have determined the right exposure time, set the timer and then expose the paper.
- Process the paper in the proper chemicals. Wash then dry the print. Repeat for each image
- Record your results (aperture and time) - you will need this information later.

Seminar Notes:

Parts of the Enlarger



Evaluation:

Attend Seminar:



Contact Sheet:

- proper exposure, all negatives are clear and visible

/10 Marks

4 Required Shots: (10 marks each)

- proper exposure
- quality of print
- composition of image

/40 Marks

3 Contrast Filter Prints: (5 marks each)

- proper exposure
- quality of print
- use of filter

/15 Marks

Artist Statement:

- written in proper format
- clear concise thoughts
- writing is reflective and insightful

/10 Marks

Portfolio

- test strips included
- labels are present and neat
- images are neatly placed and secured on the page

/15 Marks

Comments: