

SATURDAY ENRICHMENT SPRING 2019
SHUTTERBUGS: AN INTRODUCTION TO
INSTANT FILM PHOTOGRAPHY

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Location: Loew Hall 118

Course Description

Shutterbugs is an introduction to instant film photography for students in grades 2 and 3. Instead of randomly snapping away with a smartphone or digital camera, students will learn some of the basics of how a camera *really* works by learning about the most ancient of “cameras,” the *camera obscura*. Students will be introduced to such STEM basics as *light*, *shadow*, *aperture*, and *time* within the context of capturing a *nonpermanent* photographic image.

Moreover, these young Shutterbugs will learn, apply, and practice ten compositional rules of photography (i.e., rule of thirds, balancing of elements, leading lines, symmetry, perspective, background, depth, framing, cropping, and experimentation). Besides learning compositional techniques, students will gain an understanding of the rudimentary physics of optics, central to the art of photography, by experimenting with *light*, *shadow*, *framing*, and *aperture* on the *camera obscura*.

During this course, students will also be introduced to instant film photography by learning how to operate and compose with an Impossible I-1 camera, a Fujifilm Instax Wide 300 camera, and a Polaroid Snap. Instant film photographs will be produced by students, as they learn how to keep a photographer’s log of their work and to comment on photographs concerning their *composition*, *lighting*, *subject*, and *mood*.

Essential Questions

What are ten of the basic compositional rules of photography? What is a *camera obscura*? How does light travel *from* an object *through* a pinhole or other aperture? What is aperture? What is an inverted image? What is the relationship between focal length and depth of field? How do you *critically*, yet *civilly* comment on other people’s photographs?

Learning Outcomes

Students will understand ten basic rules of photographic composition; the definition and functions of a *camera obscura*; the principle of light’s rectilinear propagation; the definition of and reason for an inverted image; the definition and function of aperture; the relationship between focal length and depth of field; and critical, yet civil commentary on others’ photographs.

Students will be able to apply ten basic rules of photographic composition to produce a good exposure; to explain the functions of a *camera obscura* and light’s rectilinear propagation; to

produce a good exposure; and to critically comment on photographs concerning such elements as *composition, lighting, subject, and mood*.

Instructional Strategies

Didactic, coaching, and Socratic methods of instruction will be coupled with clear standards and objectives, problem solving, and classroom activities that entail students using a *camera obscura* and an instant film camera to learn photographic composition, which will culminate in the production of instant film photos.

Student Assessment

Since this class is primarily designed to engage students in the process of composing, capturing, and criticizing photographs, assessment will entail constructive criticism of each student's photographs, using ten basic compositional rules as aesthetic criteria.

Resources and Materials

All materials will be provided by the Robinson Center. We will be using:

EISCO Pinhole Camera Kit, *camera obscura* kits, an Impossible I-1 camera, a Fujifilm Instax Wide 300 camera, and a Polaroid Snap.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	In-Class Activities
Week 1 -- April 6	Rule of Thirds	Photograph examples of R.O.T.
Week 2 -- April 13	Balancing of Elements	Photograph examples of B.O.E.
Week 3 -- April 27	Leading Lines	Photograph examples of L.L.
Week 4 -- May 4	Symmetry	Photograph examples of symmetry
Week 5 -- May 11	Perspective	Photograph examples of perspective
Week 6 -- May 18	Background	Photograph examples of background
Week 7 -- June 1	Depth & Framing	Photograph examples of depth
Week 8 -- June 8	Cropping & Experimentation	Photograph examples of framing