

98-214 Experimental Photographic Chemistry

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Thursday 4:00pm–5:20pm Room 2196

1 Overview

This course explores 19th-century photographic techniques in an experimental setting. We will be studying historical ways of making photographs before digital cameras and other modern amenities were invented. The majority of the coursework will be hands-on printmaking sessions, including demonstrations for each process and work sessions for assigned projects.

Topics Covered

As time and materials are available, these are the topics that this course is likely to cover:

Image-making

- Photograms and related direct image methods
- 4x5 film negatives
- Digital negatives

Print-making

- Print materials (paper, fabric, or otherwise)
- Cyanotype
- Gum bichromate
- Salt prints

Readings

The textbook for this class is *The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes* by Christopher James, and is a near all-enclusive guide for antiquated and otherwise strange photographic chemistry. Additionally, <http://alternativephotography.com> contains a wealth of articles and demonstrations for similar processes.

2 Projects

This class is a 3-unit pass/fail. You will be assessed on your completion of two projects:

- Midterm project, due February 28th
- Final project, due date TBA

Further details about the projects will be covered as the class progresses.