

ART 220: History of Photography

Fall '08 Photo Lab Conference Room

Instructor: Kevin Martini-Fuller

Office Hours – Monday 5:00 – 6:30

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Course Description

This course is a survey of the technical and aesthetic history of photography in Europe, United States and Asia from the inception of photography in the early nineteenth century to present trends in photography.

The investigation of photographic history will include a chronological exploration of the purposes, uses, and genres that have been employed by major photographers. We will look at inventions, technology, influences, and genres such as portraiture, landscape, fine art photography, and documentation. Students will learn to identify styles, genres, and assimilate the many uses of photographic imagery. The class will consist of slide lectures, class discussion, independent readings and papers.

Text: (Required)

SEIZING THE LIGHT – A HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Robert Hirsch Author – McGraw Hill Publishers

Course Goals

- ◆ Develop a critical analysis and evaluation of photographers and their intentions and use of the medium of photography.
- ◆ Explore the persuasiveness and impact of the photographic image as a form of communication.
- ◆ Introduce a framework for critical evaluation of the psychological use of images in terms of past and future technologies.

Course Requirements

- ◆ Papers/Presentations
- ◆ Readings outside class
- ◆ Quizzes/final exams
- ◆ Field Trip? (TBA. Departmental trip tentatively Friday, November 14.)
- ◆ A student might expect to work 3-4 hours outside of class to prepare for this class.

Attendance

The Art Department established this department-wide attendance policy to apply to students in all art classes. For classes that meet once a week: **After the first unexcused absence, final grade will be dropped by one full letter. After the third unexcused absence, student will receive a failing final grade.**

An excused absence is one confirmed by a note from the Dean's Office, Student Services, the Learning Center, or verified with a doctor's note (within 24 hours of illness). Death in family should be confirmed with Student Services.

Documentation is required for sports. Coach should email a note to instructor confirming matches, meets, departure time for away games, or anything that would require absence from class. Practice is not an excused absence.

Job interviews or doctor's/dentist's appointments are not to be scheduled during class.

Missing Portions of Class: The following count as unexcused absences

- More than 15 minutes late for class
- Failure to bring supplies to class
- Failure to return from break
- Leaving class half an hour or more early
- Being tardy more than 3 times. Tardiness: being 5 to 15 minutes late for class

Students: If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility (not the professor's) to find out what you missed and to catch up in a timely manner.

Grading: (grades are earned, not dispensed)

There will be four (8) quizzes and one final exam throughout the semester.

There will be two papers of 5- 8 pages in length.

The quizzes will be slide identification. The final exam will be essay style and personal.

Grade distribution is as follows:

Quizzes (8)	40%	A – Exceptional
Attendance	10%	B – Clearly Above Average
Papers	20%	C – Satisfactory: Average
Final Exam	30%	D – Below Average
		F – Failure

Disability Statement

“Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.”

Academic Honesty Policy

Please reference the College policy in Student Handbook. Cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 or F. Written assignments are designed to engage students with material covered in class through visual participation and personal reaction. Papers must be your own thoughts, impressions and reactions. The Internet can provide valuable source material, but you must participate by visiting the artwork yourself, in person, and offering your own viewpoint. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be aware that I am very familiar with art and photography websites, including and not

limited to 'Masters of Photography', 'A History of Photography' and 'The George Eastman House'.

Class Schedule: **(subject to change)**

For the most part we will follow the chapters in the book – a chapter per week.

Week 1 /

Intro to class – course objectives, overview

Lecture –

Prior to Photography

In the beginning – was there life before photography?

Week 2 /

Daguerreotype

Portrait

Uses and Types of Daguerreotype Images

Week 3 /

Quiz #1

Calotype – Its impact on Photography

Week 4 /

New Processes – their uses and influence on Photography

Wet plate process

Week 5 /

Quiz #2

Historical and historically significant uses and events in Photography

Crimean War - Civil War

Week 6 /

New Medium of Communication – Photographic language – scientific uses of photography

Week 7 /

Quiz #3

Mechanical Photography – Photo Industrialization – Urban life

Week 8 /

The inadequacy of Human Vision

Locomotion – The hand held camera – color photography

Week 9 /

Quiz #4

Pictorialism and Naturalism – Photo Secession – Women Pictorialists

Week 10 /

Modernism

Time/Movement – Space & Time – Surrealism – Collage –

Week 11 /

Quiz #5

Modernism – Straight Photography - Form as Essence – New Vision

Week 12 /

Social Documentation – FSA – Ethnic Consciousness

Week 13 /

Quiz #6

Capturing Time – Anticipation

Understanding the relationship between time and the camera

Photography and the printed page

Week 14 /

The Surrealistic Metaphor – The Subjective Documentary

The Social Landscape – Changing Realities -

Week 15 /

New Technologies – The Digital Age

Week 16 /

Testing, 1,2, Testing