SYLLABUS
19th Century Photography
Fall 2015, M periods 2-3 (8:30-10:25) & W period 2 (8:30-9:20)

Instructor: Eleanor Laughlin, Visiting Assistant Professor
Office: FAC 113
Email: elaughlin@ufl.edu
Office hours: W period 6 (12:50-1:40) or by appointment

Course Description
This course examines the evolution of photography from its earliest phase, expressed in writing by several individuals, as a desire to capture an image, through its development at the end of the nineteenth century. Although sometimes dismissed as static imagery, this course posits that within their respective contexts of time, region, and social or political milieu, nineteenth-century photographs were an active and intimate part of their owners’ lives. Issues surrounding the growth of the photographic medium raise many important questions still relevant today, such as the role of the photograph as an art and a science, as both an intimate and a public object, as a political tool of propaganda, as a determinant of social class, and as a medium of “truth.”

This course will address these questions while also considering: How has photography been used to express power? How has photography been studied by scholars? And how did viewers engage with the medium then versus now?

Assigned readings will focus on American photography, while also considering the role of the medium in other regions of the world. Although the course will begin with and repeatedly return to an art historical foundation, some reading from the fields of philosophy, history, gender/cultural studies, in addition to those from art history will be required.

Course Objectives
To be conversant on the social issues and philosophies associated with nineteenth-century photography, to understand the shifting notions of its political and social relevance, to be versed in nineteenth-century photographic processes. In this course, there will be an emphasis on the discussion of assigned readings and the concepts presented therein, on close examination of visual examples, and on the critique of secondary sources.

Required Readings & Reserves (Electronic and otherwise)
Readings will be available in a variety of forms. One book requires purchase:


Some articles/chapters will be available online via electronic reserve (ARES) (https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/) and/or through UF’s Canvas interface. Some texts may also be on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.
**Course Format**

Our time together will be spent in a variety of ways. There will be a traditional lecture component during which I will introduce new images and ideas that enhance or further extend those presented through readings. There will also be a field trip and small, as well as large, group discussions of the assigned readings and selected images. It is essential that students keep up with the assigned readings in order to participate appropriately. If I find that students are not reading the material assigned, I reserve the right to add additional written summaries to be completed on a weekly basis and to become part of the final grade.

**Requirements:**

This course has information available through UF’s e-learning website, called “Canvas.” The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available there.

A passing grade requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed below. The final grade is comprised of the following elements:

**Grading**

- Attendance and Participation 10%
- Visual Analysis Paper 15%
- Quizes (2) 10%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Critical Responses to Sources 15%

**Additional information**

Students with special needs applicable to the requirements for this course should notify me as soon as possible either after class or via email. The student must also be registered with the Office for Student Services, P202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261, in order to determine appropriate accommodations.

If you find yourself experiencing a high degree of stress or struggling with personal issues, please be aware that counseling services are available on campus:

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center  
301 Peabody Hall  
P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100  
Phone: 352-392-1575  
Web: [http://www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)

**Words of Caution**

Assignments turned in late will be marked down one letter grade each week. Papers turned in late will be marked down one letter grade for each day, unless I have approved – in advance – your extenuating circumstance. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Passing requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed above.
**Dates**

September 7: NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
September 28: Quiz
October 7: Midterm Exam
October 12: Class Trip to the Harn Museum
October 19: Visual Analysis Paper Due
November 11: NO SCHOOL – VETERAN’S DAY
November 16: Critical Response Paper Due
November 25: NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
November 30: Quiz
December 9: Final Exam

**Assignment Schedule**

**Week 1:** **August 24:** Introductions, course overview, topics, technologies, and sources
**August 26:** Reading

**Week 2:** **August 31:** Some Background
**September 2:** Readings

**Week 3:** Discussion Week: Photographic Pioneers
**September 7:** NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
**September 9:** Readings

**Week 4:** **September 14:** Leaders in the Profession, Being a Daguerreotypist
**September 16:** Reading

**Week 5:** **September 21:** Portraiture
**September 23:** Readings

**Week 6:** **September 28:** The Rise of Paper Photography
**September 28:** QUIZ
**September 30:** Readings

**Week 7:** **October 5:** The Carte-de-visite and its Album
**October 5:** Readings
**October 7:** Midterm Exam

**Week 8:** **October 12:** Harn Museum Visit
**October 14:** Discussion of Harn visit
Week 9: October 19: Photography of the Civil War Era, 1860-1865
October 19: Visual Analysis Paper Due
October 21: Readings

Week 10: October 26 & 28: Film Screening in Class: Lincoln

Week 11: November 2: Scenic, Topographic, and Promotional Views
November 4: Readings

Week 12: November 9: A World of Photographs
November 9: Reading
November 11: NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY

Week 13: November 16: Photography as Art
November 16: Critical Response Papers Due
November 18: Readings

Week 14: November 23: Manipulated Photography
November 23: Readings
November 25: NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15: November 30: Women and Photography
November 30: QUIZ
December 2: Readings

Week 16: December 7: Final Thoughts, Review for Final Exam
December 9: Final Exam