

SYLLABUS
ARH 4710 History of Photography

Spring 2019, T periods 9-10 (4:05-6:00) & TH period 10 (5:10-6:00)

Instructor: Eleanor Laughlin, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Location: FAC 201

Email: elaughlin@arts.ufl.edu

Office hours: TH period 8 (3-3:50) or by appointment

Office: TBD

This course takes a thematic approach to explore the history of photography from its earliest phase, expressed in writing by several individuals as a desire to capture an image, through its contemporary development as a digital medium. Issues surrounding the growth of the photographic medium raise many important questions 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 means to reinforce social class delineations, and as a medium of “truth.” Today, with camera-enabled cell phones and social media emphasizing visual representation, photographs have a greater relevance and engage larger audiences than ever before. Contemporary topics include manipulated photographs, the snapshot aesthetic, photographs as agents of change, and the roles of the viewer and the amateur photographer in the proliferation of increasingly ephemeral images.

We will address these issues while also considering: How has photography been used to express power? Is photography gendered? How has photography been studied by scholars? And how did viewers engage with the medium in the past versus today?

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 photography, to understand the shifting notions of its political and social relevance, to be versed in 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:

- Marien, Mary Warner. *Photography: A Cultural History*. New York: Pearson, 2014. (4th Ed.)

The following texts are recommended, but **not required**:

- Lindsey, Rachel McBride. *A Communion of Shadows: Religion and Photography in Nineteenth-Century America*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2017.

- Zuromskis, Catherine. *Snapshot Photography: The Lives of Images*. Boston: The MIT Press, 2013.

If you choose NOT to purchase these books, a portion of the readings will be available online, but further excerpts will need to be accessed at the Fine Arts Library, for in-library use only (due to copyright restrictions).

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. The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available there.

Requirements

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	15%
Visual Analysis Paper	20%
Critical Responses*	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

*In lieu of article analyses, graduate students will be assigned a final paper.

Graduate Students:

Final Paper	20%
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Attendance and Participation (15%)

In this course, emphasis is placed on participation in the discussion of readings, and therefore attendance is required and worth a percentage of your grade (15%). You will be asked to sign in at each session. After two unexcused absences, your final grade will be dropped with each additional absence. Readings should be completed for participation in discussion.

Visual Analysis Paper (20%)

The visual analysis consists of just that: a close looking examination of ONE object or image in person. Sylvan Barnet outlines excellent questions for consideration in analysis in his second chapter and his chapter on photography (see required reading: *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*). The paper should be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font, and three to four pages in length.

Midterm (20%) and Final Examinations (25%)

Students will take one essay exam in class in the middle of the semester and one at the end of the semester. The midterm and the final will consist of three sections: slide identification (who, what, when, where, why important), a short essay comparing two slides, and a longer, broad-based essay question for which students will be required to recall their own examples from memory to respond to the question. Exam content will be drawn from readings, terms, and examples discussed in class. A study guide will be provided.

Critical Responses (20%) – UNDERgrads only

Students will be required to select TWO scholarly articles, essays or chapters with a topic that falls under the parameters (subject matter, region, and period) of this course for critical review. The students should do a close reading of the article, then write a three-page critical response for each. The response content should include information about the article's scope, argument, approach, publication context, and interest or relevance to his/her own work. The student should critique the article within the context of other scholarship on the topic, as understood through previous scholarly research and/or readings assigned in class.

Final Paper (25%) – GRADS only

The final paper should be at least 15 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, with one-inch margins. It should present an original argument, supported by secondary research, on a work of art related to the content of this course. Images should be analyzed in detail and copies should be numbered, referenced by number in the paper, and attached to the back of the document. References may be entered in whichever format you find most comfortable, but should be in that same format *consistently* throughout the document. Also, please attach a bibliography.

Grading Policy

For information on current UF grading policies and grade point averages, please visit:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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>

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

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

February 19: Midterm Exam
February 26: Harn Museum Visit
March 2-9: Spring Break – NO SCHOOL
March 19: Harn Museum Visit
March 26: Visual Analysis Paper Due
April 16: Critical Response & Final Papers Due
April 23: Final Exam in class

Assignment Schedule

Week 1: Introductions

January 8: Course Overview, Sources, The Photographic Canon

January 10: Before Photography

Readings

Week 2: The Magic of Photography

January 15: Phantasmagoria, Daguerreotype, Spiritualism, Religion, Illusion of Reality

Readings

January 17

Reading

Week 3: Photography and Art

January 22: Calotype, Paper photography, The Art of Travel

Reading

January 24: Portraiture, Reproduction, Aura, and the Crisis of Modernism

Readings

Week 4: Photography and Death

January 29: War, Post-mortem portraiture

Readings

January 31: Photography and Mourning

Readings

Week 5: Photography and Social Justice

February 5: Photography, Race, Slavery, and Colonialism

Readings

Week 6: The Human Family

February 12: Relativism and Resistance

Readings

February 14: Midterm Review

Week 7: Midterm Exam and Visual Analysis prep

February 19: MIDTERM EXAM

February 21: Exhibition prep and Visual analysis discussion

Readings

Week 8: “The World to Come: Art in the Age of the Anthropocene”

February 26: Harn Museum Visit

February 28: Museum Follow-up, Wrap up discussion

Week 9: March 5 & 7 – SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL

Week 10: Photography and “Truth”

March 12: Photojournalism and Documentary

Readings

March 14: The Americans and the View from the Street

Week 11: “I, Too, Am America”

March 19: Harn Museum Visit

March 21: The Predicaments of Social Concern

Readings

MARCH 26: VISUAL ANALYSIS PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 12: Back to Modernism and Dada

March 26: Photography and Modernity

Readings

March 28: Art in the Age of Mass Media

Reading

Week 13: Manipulated Photography

April 2: Photocollage

Readings

April 4: Photoshop

Readings

Week 14: Women and Photography

April 9: Julia Margaret Cameron, Gertrude Kasebier, Georgia O'Keefe, Tina Modotti, Lola A. Bravo

Reading

April 11: Imogen Cunningham, Vivian Maier, Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, Nan Goldin, Sally Mann

Reading

APRIL 16: CRITICAL RESPONSES DUE/FINAL PAPERS DUE

Week 15: Snapshot Aesthetic, Selfies, and Science

April 16: Snapshot Aesthetic

Readings

April 18: Science and Photography, Where do we go from here?

Readings

Week 16: FINAL EXAM

April 23: Final Exam at regular class time