

Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to the history of photography from its invention to its most recent developments. Since this history is rich and complex, we will cover only a broad survey in a semester's time. The primary objective will be to introduce photo students to the major artistic achievements of the medium, as well as the philosophical ideas that have accompanied these developments.

There will be a series of lectures and discussions, visual presentations, field trips, and projects. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding and evaluating photographic works of art within their respective cultural contexts. Students are also strongly encouraged to relate their own artistic practice to the material.

*Please note: this course **does not** satisfy Art History requirements for BA and BFA candidates in the Art Department. It does however count for Art History credit in the Art Education program.*

Requirements

Because each day's topic will build on the one before, students in photo history are required to attend all classes, on time and prepared for discussion. This means you must complete any assigned readings *before* each class begins. Please prepare at least one question or comment in response to the course material each week. If necessary I will provide written assignments to help you with this.

You will be required to write one short research paper (4-6 pages) on a course-related topic of your choice. You will also propose and develop a creative project in response to the course material, which you will present in class at the end of the term.

There will be several short quizzes, including one at midterm and one at the end of the semester. These will test comprehension of the readings, lectures, and class discussions. Any missed quiz will be averaged as an F, unless you discuss your absence with me in advance.

Please note that a significant percentage of the in-class material will not be repeated, and will not be readily available in the textbook. This material is synthesized from many sources and will be presented to you as part of an ongoing class dialog. The textbook will be a useful reference, but you should not expect to perform well on the quizzes if you do not come to class.

Grades

Attendance and thoughtful participation	25%
Quizzes	25%
Research paper	25%
Creative project and presentation	25%

Course Texts

A World History of Photography, Third Edition, Naomi Rosenblum

The Photo Book, by PHAIDON

Handouts and/or articles on reserve in the library

Tentative Schedule subject to frequent updates

Sept 1	Overview/syllabus
Sept 3	Class discussion on first reading and assignment Early Beginnings and Precursors
Sept 8	Portraits
Sept 10	Class discussion – reading TBA More Portraits
Sept 15	19 th Century Landscape + Travel
Sept 17	Early War photography
Sept 22	More on War Class discussion – reading TBA
Sept 24	Early Art Review for Quiz #1
Sept 29	** Quiz #1 ** ** Paper topics due ** Reading TBA
Oct 1	Class discussion More on Early Art Composites Turn of the Century – Kodak and Brownie Cameras
Oct 6	Continued turn of the Century – Pictorialism
Oct 13	No class – Monday classes meet
Oct 15	More on Pictorialism Photo-secessionists Midterm review/discussion ** Preliminary bibliography/source list for papers due **

- Oct 20 **** Quiz #2 ****
- Oct 22 Motion Photography
- Oct 27 Intro to Social Documentary
**** Rough draft papers due for review ** (optional)**
- Oct 29 Class discussion – Paul Strand reading
Straight Photography and Early Modernism
- Nov 3 Continued Modernism
Group f64
- Nov 5 Introduction to FSA (Farm Security Administration)
- Nov 10 **** Research papers due in class ****
Slides of previous student projects
- Nov 12 Three 20th Century monographs
Reading assignment TBA
- Nov 17 **** Project proposals due in class ****
**** Quiz #3 ****
- Nov 19 20th Century Survey
- Nov 24 Continued 20th Century Survey, and beyond
**** Preliminary project material due in class ****
- Nov 26 **No class – Thanksgiving**
- Dec 1 Continued 20th Century Survey, and beyond
- Dec 3 **** Written component of creative project due in class ****
Review for quiz – bring questions
- Dec 8 **** Quiz #4 ****
- Dec 10 **** Project presentations in class ****