

History of Photography
ARH 208
Fall 2018

Professor Catherine (Katie) Howse

Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 5:30–6:50pm

Location: Staller Center 3218

Contact information

Office: Staller Center, 4th Floor, 4293

Office hours: Monday 3:30–5:00pm, and by appointment

Email: catherine.howse@stonybrook.edu

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the history of the photographic medium, from its invention in the early nineteenth century through the present day. We will survey major artists and makers as well as important developments in aesthetics, theory, and the role of photography in culture. Some of the major recurring topics of the course include the ongoing debates about photography and its relation to art, the role of technology in shaping photographic imagery, and the various social and cultural manifestations of the medium in journalism, science, politics, advertising, art, etc. The basic goals of the course are to develop an understanding and appreciation of the medium of photography in art and culture and to develop visual and critical thinking skills relevant beyond the scope of this class. Upon completion of the course students are expected to be able to be knowledgeable of historical developments in and theoretical approaches to the medium of photography; be able to recognize, describe, analyze, and interpret visual images; and be familiar with strategies with which to approach photographic images.

Required Textbooks

Mary Warner Marien, *Photography: A Cultural History*, 4th ed. (Pearson Education, Inc., 2015)

Grading

Attendance, participation, and assignments: 40%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 35%

Attendance

You are expected to attend ALL classes. If you miss more than 3 classes, your grade will drop a full letter grade.

Papers

Paper #1: Formal Analysis. This is an exercise in visual description and analysis on a photograph of your choice.

Due in class on Wednesday, October 10th

A Full assignment sheet will be uploaded to blackboard and reviewed in class

Exams

The Midterm and Final Exam will be identical in format, and each will consist of two parts. The first part is a set of identifications: I will show you a work of art or photographic imagery we've seen in class, and you will be responsible for identifying 1) the artist, 2) the title, 3) the date, and 4) the significance of the work as it was presented in class. Parts 1-3 are straightforward memorization, and part four will be fairly rudimentary if you have attended class, taken good notes, and completed readings. The second part will be to answer three short essay questions. Again, if you've attended class regularly, taken good notes, and done the course readings, this should not prove difficult. *Please note: the final will be comprehensive

Blackboard

The course schedule will be available online at the Blackboard course website, accessible at

<https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>. The Midterm and Final Exam study guides and other assignments will also be available there.

Classroom Policies

Cellular devices must be turned off before entering the classroom. You may use your computer for note-taking purposes only. If you go online during class, you will lose in class computer privileges for the rest of the semester.

Additionally, plagiarism or otherwise profiting from the independent work of a classmate will not be tolerated. In the event of suspicious overlap between student submissions, involved parties will be asked to visit office hours to explain the circumstances behind the appearance of academic dishonesty. All instances of documented plagiarism will be reported to Stony Brook University's Academic Judiciary Committee and will result in failing marks for the semester.

Course Schedule

- *Some remarks on the course schedule: the syllabus is a living document, and depending on our progress as a group, will be subject to revision in the event of session cancellations, delayed progress, and other unanticipated eventualities. If the syllabus undergoes modification, a notice will be emailed to all matriculated students at the time of the decision.*

Week 1: August 27

Introduction to the course and syllabus review (8/27)

Origins of Photography (8/29)

Reading: Marien, Ch. 1

Week 2: September 3

No class 9/3 (Labor Day)

Science, War and Photography, Travel Photography, Portraiture, 1839–54

Reading: Marien, Chapter 2

Week 3: September 10

Popular Photography, Photography as Fine Art, Women and Photography, 1854–80

Reading: Marien, Chapter 3

Week 4: September 17

War Photography Expanded, Colonial Expansion, Topographical Surveys, Preservation, Native Americans

Reading: Marien, Chapter 4

Week 5: September 24

Photography and Social Sciences—Ethnographic studies, Medicine and Sciences, Photomicrography, and Astronomical photographs

Reading: Marien, Chapter 5

Week 6: October 1

Mass media and Mass Markets, Naturalistic and Pictorialism, 1880–1918

Reading: Marien, Chapter 6

Week 7: October 8

Modern life: Social Reform, Moving Pictures, Time and Motion Studies, Exploration and National Geographic

No Class 10/8 (Fall Break)

Reading: Marien, Chapter 7

10/10: Formal Analysis due in class [I will not accept papers submitted via email; late submissions will not be accepted]

Week 8:

October 15

Art and Mass Media, Dada, Surrealism, Advertising, California Modern, 1918–1945

Origins of Documentary, WWII

Reading: Marien, Chapter 8

10/15: Midterm study guide will be posted to Blackboard

Week 9:

October 22

10/22: MIDTERM REVIEW

10/24: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10:

October 29

Origins of Documentary, Popular Art and Science, WWII

Reading: Marien, Chapter 9

Week 11:

November 5

Family of Man, Cultural Relativism and Resistance, The Cold War, Abstraction, Postwar America, Television, Color Photography, Photography in Art

Reading: Marien, Chapters 10 & 11

Week 12:

November 12

Review previous week: Photography and Art, the Institutionalization of Photography

Globalism, Technology, and Social Change

Reading: Marien, Chapter 12 (Chapter 11 continued)

Week 13:

November 19

New Social Documentary, The Postmodern Era, Constructed Realities, Body, Politics, Fashion

Reading: Marien, Chapter 13

Week 14:

November 26

No school 11/25 (Thanksgiving Break)

Appropriation, feminism, race: Sherry Levine, Richard Prince, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, Carrie Mae Weems, and Lorna Simpson, among others

Reading: Marien, Chapter 13 continued

Final study guide will be posted to Blackboard

Week 15:

December 3

Into the Twenty-First Century

Reading: Marien, Chapter 14

Wednesday: Review for final exam

Final exam: _____

UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES:

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

The professor reserves the right to change, with adequate notice, the contents of this syllabus and/or the requirements for the course.