



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ART 247 Photographic History and Theory

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the history and theoretical underpinnings of photography, tracing its evolution from its invention to contemporary practices. Students will delve into key movements, styles, and social contexts that have shaped the development of photography as an art form and a tool for social change. Through lectures, discussions, and visual analysis, students will gain insights into the multifaceted roles of photography in shaping perceptions, identities, and narratives throughout history.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Provide students with a thorough understanding of the historical development of photography and its significance as an art form and medium of expression;
2. Examine the theoretical frameworks and critical perspectives that have informed the practice and interpretation of photography;
3. Foster critical thinking and analytical skills through the examination of photographic images and texts within their socio-cultural contexts;
4. Encourage interdisciplinary approaches to the study of photography, integrating perspectives from art history, sociology, cultural studies, and other relevant disciplines;
5. Cultivate an appreciation for the diverse forms and functions of photography, from documentary and fine art to conceptual and experimental practices.

PREREQUISITES

None.



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	35 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Beaumont Newhall, *The History of Photography*, 5th edition, 1984, The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics:</p> <p>Topic 1: The Invention of Photography: Daguerreotype and Calotype Processes</p> <p>Topic 2: Early Photography: Pioneers and Innovators</p> <p>Topic 3: Photography and Art: Pictorialism and the Influence of Painting Traditions</p> <p>Topic 4: From Pictorialism to Modernism: The Birth of Photographic Modernism</p> <p>Assessments:</p>



	Assignment #1
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Photography as a Tool for Social Change: Documentary Photography and Reform Movements Topic 6: Photography and Avant-Garde Movements: Surrealism and Dadaism Topic 7: From Street Photography to Pop Photography: Exploring Urban Realities and Mass Culture Topic 8: Conceptual Art and Identity Politics: Photography in the Context of Conceptual Art and Identity Politics</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: The Influence of War on Photography: Photojournalism and Conflict Photography Topic 10: Postmodernism and Deconstruction in Photography Topic 11: Photography and Feminism: Reclaiming the Gaze Topic 12: Environmental Concerns and Eco-Critical Photography</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment #2 Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Indigenous Perspectives in Photography: Reclaiming Narratives and Representations Topic 14: Photography and Identity Politics: Exploring Race, Gender, and Sexuality Topic 15: Queer and LGBTQ+ Photographic Practices Topic 16: Surveillance and Privacy in the Digital Age: Exploring the Ethics of Surveillance Photography</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Globalization and Transnational Photography Networks Topic 18: The Role of Photography in Postcolonial Discourse Topic 19: The Intersection of Photography and Performance Art Topic 20: New Media and Digital Photography: Exploring the Impact of Technology on Photographic Practices</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>



ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).



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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.