



**School of Arts & Science
Visual Arts Dept.**

ART 150: THE CULTURAL USES OF PHOTOGRAPHY

COURSE OUTLINE: Fall 2008

1. Instructor Information

- (a) **Instructor:** Nancy Yakimoski (office: Y101A)
- (b) **Office hours:** Mon and Wed 7:30-8 pm OR by appointment
- (c) **Class:** _____ Monday &
Wednesday, 6 - 7:20 pm in Y300
- (d) **Phone:** 250-370-3386 (voice mail)—email whenever possible,
please
- (e) **E-mail:** yakimosk@camosun.bc.ca (**note:** there is no 'i' at
the end of my name)
- (f) **VA website:** <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/learn/programs/visart.html>

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

- o describe various historic and contemporary photographic processes
- o understand how photographs have been utilized in various socio-political contexts & disciplines, from c. 1830s to present day
- o understand key issues, ethics, & consequences involved in both picture taking & application of photography
- o understand and use the terminology specific to the field
- o general understanding of contemporary theory as applied to discussing photography

3. Required Materials—course pack

There is a course pack available for purchase at the Bookstore (\$45). The course pack is **not** on reserve at the library. I will provide a style sheet for your essay, but it is good to have a writer's style manual. I will be putting various books and folders on reserve in the library for your assignments.

4. Course Content

This course examines different ways that photography and photographs have been used by Western society in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (emphasis on England, France, and North America). We will investigate the production of images, their circulation, consumption, applications, and interpretations, as well as their impact within the areas of portraiture, photojournalism, science, "pseudo" science, and advertising. We also consider issues and theories of spectatorship, identity, representation, gender, race, and class.

The course is divided into themes with lectures exploring these themes using different case studies and examples. For each class, specific articles provide background while the lectures provide the details. Although lectures are based on specific topics, they do build upon previous lecture material and further develop recurring themes. There may be a few extra readings to photocopy, print out, or read on-line.

Please note: this course is *not* a chronological examination of the technical developments, genres, or art movements in the history of photography although they are addressed.

Warning: During the lectures I will be showing images that some students may find troubling or controversial. If you feel this is going to adversely affect you or your ability to attend the lectures and/or complete assignments, you should re-consider taking this class. The types of potentially disturbing

images: photos from war such as photos of dead/dying people, risqué photos from advertisements, etc.

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

MIDTERM	OCTOBER 20	30%
RESEARCH PROJECT	NOVEMBER 12	30%
STUDY GUIDE	HANDED IN AT THE MIDTERM & FINAL EXAM	10%
FINAL EXAM	TBA - DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL PLANS UNTIL YOU KNOW YOUR EXAM SCHEDULE	30%

NOTE: No "make-up" assignments are given if you do poorly on an exam or a project

Course requirements: mid term (30%) & final exam (30%)

Exams are based on a combination of lecture notes *and* material from the assigned readings. Just reading the text or attending the lectures will not be enough! There is something from every lecture on the exams. While knowing details is important, you will need to make connections between the lectures. This will become apparent as the course progresses. The exam format: definitions and in-class essay(s). I provide the essay topics ahead of time and you will be allowed to bring in some written information for the essay.

Course requirements ***outside of class time:***

- A visit to the RBCM (Royal BC Museum) on **Sat** Nov. 22 from 11-noon; free
- A possible visit to the BC Archives on Sat Nov 22

Research project (30%)

There are three options for the research project. I will provide information about each option that provides objectives, instructions, expectations, and grading criteria.

OPTION 1: ACADEMIC RESEARCH ESSAY

This involves conducting research and creating a 10 page (250 words/page) essay that analyzes a specific idea; I will provide a list of possible topics from which to choose. You may propose a different research topic if you like but you must provide a written proposal to me for approval. Make an appointment to see me and bring with you a thesis statement, a bibliography of key books and articles, and photocopies/digital print-outs of images.

OPTION 2: ANALYZING A FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBUM

Using a family album that someone else has created/assembled, analyze the album with respect to how it adheres to and/or diverges from the traditional family album. You will need to locate an album to use (including photocopying so make sure it is not too fragile). One lecture will be given which will provide background. I will put some readings on reserve to initiate your research but you will need to conduct additional research regarding the social significance and construction of the family album.

OPTION 3: ANALYZING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (a specific issue or recurring theme)

Select an issue or issues of *National Geographic* and analyze how the magazine portrays a particular culture and peoples. You will need to locate the necessary issues for your paper. While you will need to conduct additional research, I will put some information on reserve to get you started. One class will go over representations in *National Geographic*.

Late assignments

Late assignments, that is, those submitted after the due date & time, will be penalized **5% per day** (note: if your assignment grade is 75% and you handed it in 1 day late your grade would be 70% for that assignment). I will **not** accept assignments **7 days** after deadline *unless* special permission is arranged *beforehand* and/or medical certification is provided. You may request an extension but not on day assignment is due or past that point. To request an extension, you need to submit a written request (email is fine) including the day you will hand it in.

Unhappy with an assignment grade? This is the procedure to follow:

- 1) you can't talk to me the day you get the assignment back
- 2) take the assignment home and evaluate it by:
 - a) re-reading the hand-out about the assignment (especially the grading criteria)
 - b) re-reading your answer & considering my comments & the grading criteria
- 3) formulate your "case" (make notes!) & then discuss your grade with me

Academic consequences if source material is not cited:

Not citing your sources is a form of plagiarism and, therefore, cannot receive a passing grade. If you are not sure about when and how to cite your sources, consult your *Style Manual*. Camosun has an **Academic Conduct Policy**; it is the **student's responsibility** to become familiar with the content of this policy (see the College's web site).

The "Study Guide" (10% total)

To assist with managing the rather large quantity of information this course covers, you will be required to create a "study guide." It will consist of your definitions to the vocabulary words given at each class as well as various assignments given in class. Think of it as YOUR PERSONAL, CUSTOMIZED STUDY GUIDE. It is a place to manage, simplify, and synthesize lecture notes and information. It is separate from your class notes; while it can take whatever form you like, use a binder-type system so that you can add pages.

The Study Guide will be taken in for grading **after** your write your midterm and final exam. Photocopied pages of handwritten study guides will not be accepted.

Grading criteria for Study Guide

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 5/5 | all vocab words well defined; all assignments are very well done |
| 4/5 | most vocab words defined (1 or 2 missing); assignments are good |
| 3/5 | missing more than 3 definitions; assignments need more information |
| 2/5 | more than half the vocab words are missing; assignments lack in content and quality |
| 1/5 | most work missing; all assignments greatly lacking in content and quality |
| 0/5 | study guide not handed in or missing the large majority of vocab words/assignments |

Late essay and "study guide" assignments

Late assignments will be penalized. Until I hold the assignment in my hands, **5% per day** will be deducted from the final assignment grade. The weekend (Sat & Sun) counts as 1 day. Assignments may not be accepted after 1 calendar week (7 days) from due date *unless special permission is arranged beforehand*.

Missed exams & Make-up exams

If a student misses an exam due to illness or extenuating circumstances, notify me immediately (voice mail is acceptable). Medical (written) certification must be produced within **three** (3) week days of missed exam before alternate testing will be arranged; otherwise a grade of ``0'' will be issued for that exam. The make-up exam is scheduled within 3 week days of the missed exam and is different from the one given in class.

Learning Support & Services for Students

There are a variety of services available for students to assist throughout your learning. For a detailed list and contact information, visit <http://www.camosun.bc.ca/services/>

o **Disability Resource Centre:** <http://camosun.ca/services/drc/>

If a student requires academic accommodations to be made, he/she is responsible for registering with the Disability Resource Centre. All student & instructor interaction with the Centre is completely confidential. If there are other matters of which I should be aware because it may affect your participation and/or completion of assignments, speak with me immediately, or send an email. Again, such information is confidential.

6. Grading System

A+ = 90 - 100%	B = 73 - 76%	D = 50 - 59%	
A = 85 - 89%	B- = 80 - 84%	= 70 - 72%	F = 0 - 49%
A- = 77 - 79%	C = 60 - 64%	C+ = 65 - 69%	

Art 150 Lecture schedule (subject to change)

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND		
class 1 03 Sept	<i>introduction to the course</i>	
class 2 08 Sept	<i>development & reception of photography, c. 1839-1900</i>	Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, "Practices of Looking; Images, Power, and Politics," <i>Practices of Looking; An Introduction to Visual Culture</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001) pp. 10 - 24. George Gilbert, <i>Photography, The Early Years: A Historical Guide for Collectors</i> (New York: Harper & Row, c1980) 6, 9, 27, 120.
class 3 10 Sept	<i>The photographic family album (domestic photography) c. 1950s - present</i>	Patricia Holland, "Introduction; History, Memory, and the Family Album," <i>Family Snaps; The Meaning of Domestic Photography</i> (London: Virago Press, 1991) pp. 1-14.
class 4 15 Sept	Mandatory LIBRARY info session	Have your essay idea/topic finalized so you are ready to begin researching