湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	History of Photography
Course Code	ARTH 2131
Semester	Spring 2027
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

Photography has revolutionized the way we perceive and document the world. This course traces the history of photography from its invention in the early 19th century to its contemporary digital manifestations. Beginning with the earliest experiments with light-sensitive materials, we will explore the evolution of photographic technology, aesthetics, and cultural significance. Special attention will be given to the impact of photography on art, journalism, and everyday life, including the ways social media platforms have reshaped the visual landscape. Through lectures, readings, and critical discussions, students will develop an understanding of how photography has both reflected and shaped historical and social change.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- understand the technological and artistic developments in the history of photography;
- analyze the impact of photography on society, culture, and visual communication;
- identify key photographers, movements, and historical moments that shaped photographic practice;
- evaluate the role of photography in shaping contemporary digital culture and social media;
- develop critical thinking skills in the interpretation and contextualization of photographic images.

Textbooks/Supplies/Materials/Equipment/ Technology or Technical Requirements:
Marien, Mary Warner. *Photography: A Cultural History* (5th Edition), Laurence King Publishing, 2021.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation and Discussion
Active participation in class discussions and activities is a crucial part of this course. You are expected to contribute thoughtful comments and questions based on the readings and lectures. Participation will be assessed based on the quality and frequency of your contributions, as well as your engagement with the ideas presented by your peers and the instructor.

Visual Analysis Assignments
Students will complete two visual analysis assignments, each worth 10%. These assignments will require you to analyze a photograph or series of photographs, considering their historical context, composition, and cultural significance. You will be expected to apply the analytical frameworks discussed in class and demonstrate your ability to interpret visual material critically.

Research Paper
Students will write a 7-10-page research paper on a topic related to the history of photography. The paper should demonstrate a deep engagement with the subject matter, incorporating primary and secondary sources to support your analysis. Topics must be approved by the instructor. This assignment will assess your ability to conduct independent research, critically analyze historical and cultural contexts, and present your findings in a clear and coherent manner.

Midterm Exam
The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course, including the invention of photography, 19th-century developments, and early 20th-century movements. The exam will consist of short-answer questions and an essay, testing your knowledge of key concepts, historical events, and your ability to articulate connections between photography and its cultural impact.

Final Exam
The final exam will be cumulative, covering all topics discussed in the course. It will include multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and an essay. The exam is designed to test your comprehensive understanding of the history of photography,

your ability to analyze photographic works, and your capacity to synthesize information from the course materials.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Class Participation and Discussion	10%
Visual Analysis Assignments	20%
Research Paper	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:
The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

ARTH 2131 Schedule

Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Syllabus Overview The Origins of Photography (to 1839) Early Experiments with Light-Sensitive Materials	Chapter 1
L2	Daguerreotype vs. Calotype Processes Photography and Industrialization	Chapter 1
L3	The Second Invention of Photography (1839-1854) Photography and the Sciences: Biology, Anthropology and Medicine Portraiture and the Democratization of Images	Chapters 2-3
L4	Portraiture and the Rise of Studio Photography Photography as a Fine Art Women behind the Camera	Chapters 2-3
L5	Photography and Colonialism Documentary Photography and Early Photojournalism War Photography: Crimean War and American Civil War	Chapters 4-5
L6	Photography and the Social Sciences Ethnographic Studies and Display; Orientalism Photography in Medicine and Science	Chapter 5
L7	Photography and Modernity (1880-1918)	Chapters 5-6

	The Great Divide Pictorialism: A Conservative Avant-Garde Modernism and the Rise of Artistic Photography Pictorialism vs. Straight Photography	
L8	Avant-Garde Photography and Abstraction Photography and Modern Art Movements	Chapter 6
L9	The Bauhaus and New Vision	Chapter 8
L10	Photography as a Tool for Social Change The Great Depression and the FSA Photographers	Chapter 7
L11	Civil Rights Photography and Protest Imagery Photography and Propaganda	Chapter 7
L12	Surrealism and Photography	Chapter 8
L13	Documentary Expression and Popular Photography **Assignment 1 due**	Chapter 9
L14	**Midterm Exam**	Chapters 1-8
L15	Photography and Propaganda: World War II	Chapter 9
L16	Through the Lens of Culture(1945-1975) The Cold War Era Post-War Photography	Chapters 10-11
L17	Street Photography: Henri Cartier-Bresson and Beyond	Chapter 11
L18	Color Photography: William Eggleston and Stephen Shore	Chapter 11
L19	Conceptual Photography: Ideas Over Images	Chapter 12
L20	Photography and Identity Gender, Race, and Representation in Photography	Chapter 12
L21	The Role of Photography in Shaping Racial and Cultural Narratives Personal and Vernacular Photography	Chapter 12
L22	Postmodernism and the Critique of Photography Enter Fashion	Chapters 12-13
L23	Into the Twenty-First Century The Transition from Film to Digital Photography Photography and Mass Media **Assignment 2 due**	Chapter 13
L24	The Role of Photography in Social Media Culture Ethics of Digital Manipulation and AI in Photography Photography in Advertising and Propaganda The Rise of Celebrity Culture and Paparazzi Photography The Aesthetics of Instagram and Mobile Photography	Chapter 13
L25	Photography and Globalization Contemporary Photography and Future Trends: Global Perspectives **Research Paper Submission**	Chapter 14
	Final Exam	Chapters 1-14

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations
All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates
All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work
The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities
Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.