

NYU Prague

ART-UE9301P01

Photography I for Non-Majors

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

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Course Information

- ART-UE9301P01
- **Photography I for Non-Majors**
- No previous knowledge of photography needed.
- Tuesday, Thursday 1.30- 2.50 pm, Plus hours in dark-rooms
 - Blue Building, Dvorak class

Course Overview and Goals

The course is focused on photography as an art and photography as a means of communication. It includes aspects of history and the theory of photography and practical photographic education of classic analog/wet darkroom process — i.e. black and white photographic image making and printing. The goal is to develop a new way of seeing through the viewfinder of the camera and to hone critical thinking about photography. This course aims to teach students to experience the works of art and reflect on that experience. Importance is laid on students' understanding of the photographic image as a means of expressing an individual attitude towards the world.

Classroom time will be comprised of slide lectures (about the history and theory of photography), instruction in darkrooms, demonstrations of how the camera works, presentation of students' photographic projects, group discussions and critiques and field trips to photographic exhibitions and their interpretations.

Classes are scheduled twice a week plus students' free time spent in the darkroom. However, please note that this syllabus is subject to change depending on how the darkroom works progress.

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

- Demonstrate a basic level of knowledge of the history of photography.
- Understand the basic components and operation of the camera.
- Properly expose black and white film. Make black and white photographic prints.
- Use basic formal principles of image composition and design elements.
- Understand photography as a form of visual communication, as a tool to express student ideas and concepts.
- Develop an ability to critically respond to and analyze contemporary artworks as well as think critically about the subject matter of his/her work.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Students are expected to discuss, analyse and interpret works of art as well as conduct group critiques on their own photographic projects, sketches and project proposals.

Assignment 1

Four photographic projects:

Documentary series (6 prints minimum)
Portrait Study (6 prints minimum)
Composition study (6 prints minimum)
Exhibition project (free theme, free number of images)

Each project will be handed in with hard copy annotation (short interpretation of the theme, 2-3 paragraph).

Assignment 2

One paper, Exhibition review (3 pages minimum, double-spaced). The due date will be given during the semester.

Tests & Quizzes

Midterm and final test (in-class written tests on history/theory, technology/technics of photography).

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class Participation	25 %
Assignment 1 (Mid-term oral exam):	20 %
Assignment 2 (In class presentation)	25 %
Assignment 3 (Final Research Paper)	30 %

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	90% and higher
A-	87.5% - 89.99%
B+	82.5% - 87.49%
B	80% - 82.49%
B-	77.5% - 79.99%
C+	72.5% - 77.49%

Letter Grade	Percent
C	70% - 72.49%
C-	67.5% - 69.99%
D+	62.5% - 67.49 %
D	60% - 62.49%
D-	57.5% - 59.99%
F	57.49% and lower

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work. Meets all of the course requirements and performs at a level far above the average. Demonstrates active participation in group critiques. Written work shows observant and critical approach to the subject. Photographic projects are visibly outstanding (technical excellence, interesting subject matter and innovative approach, creative use of formal elements, imaginative work regarding your idea, excellent presentation).

Grade B: Very good work.

Grade C: Satisfactory work.

Grade D: Passable work.

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Tuesday, September 4	Overview of the course: information on the program, syllabus, course materials. Students cameras viewed. Darkroom equipment viewed.		
Session 2 Thursday, September 6	Basic principles of photography (Analog/Digital photography). Field trip to Škoda Photography Store, Vodičkova Str.37, Prague 1.	Geoffrey Batchen: Over exposed NYU Classes	
Session 3 Tuesday, September 11	Camera basics and an introduction to exposure (Film speed, Aperture, Shutter speed).	John Szarkowski: Introduction to the Photographers Eye NYU Classes Exposure Handbook pp. 17-69	
Session 4 Thursday, September 13	Seeing photographs (Composition) Camera Setting: Exposure Modes	John Berger: Ways of Seeing NYU Classes Exposure Handbook pp. 17-69	
Session 5 Tuesday, September 18	Seeing photographs (Design Elements)	Developing b/w negative Handbook pp. 227-255.	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	The basic camera regimes and its effect on structure of the image. Demonstration: Developing b/w negative , chemistry, enlarger, contrast and density.		
Session 6 Thursday, September 20	Field Trip (Exhibitor) or Guest Lecture		
Session 7 Tuesday, September 25	Printing students' photographs in darkroom. Basic darkroom work (Test strips).	Printing in Darkroom Handbook pp. 261-325.	
Session 8 Thursday, September 27	Printing students' photographs in darkroom. Basic darkroom work (Final prints).	Printing in Darkroom Handbook pp. 261-325.	
Session 9 Tuesday, October 2	Printing students' photographs in darkroom. (Contact print, advanced darkroom techniques).	Printing in Darkroom Handbook pp. 261-325.	
Session 10 Thursday, October 4	Documentary photography part 1.	Henry Cartier-Bresson: The Decisive Moment NYU Classes	Printing in darkroom apart from scheduled class time.
Session 11 Tuesday, October 9	Documentary photography part 2.	A Statement by Robert Frank. Americans: Intro by Jack Kerouac NYU Classes	
Session 12 Thursday, October 11	Group critique. Presentation of Photo Project 1: Documentary series (6 prints minimum), hard copy annotation		
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 13 Tuesday, October 23	The invention of photography. Aperture, shutter speed and depth of field. Focus and depth of field. The major types of cameras.	Geoffrey Batchen: Desiring Production NYU Classes Focus and depth of field Handbook pp. 35-69. The major types of cameras Handbook pp. 79-95.	
Session 14 Thursday, October 25	Lecture: Early Photography	Walter Benjamin: The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction NYU Classes	
Session 15 Tuesday, October 30	Field Trip (Exhibitor) or Guest Lecture		
Session 16 Thursday, November 1	Mid-term test: on history, theory of photography, on technology (darkroom) and technics (camera basics and exposure) of		

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	photography. Test is based on lectures and instructions held in Intro to Photo class.		
Session 17 Tuesday, November 6	Photography connected to portrait/self-portrait 1.	Ronald Barthes: Camera Lucida NYU Classes	
Session 18 Thursday, November 8	Photography connected to portrait/self-portrait 2.	Rosalind Krauss: Cindy Sherman. Singular Images. NYU Classes	
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 19 Tuesday, November 13	Group critique. Presentation of Photo Project #2: Portrait study series (6 prints minimum), hard copy annotation		
Session 20 Thursday, November 15	Lecture: Discussion of some most iconic photographic work. Lecture: Exposure, metering, zone system.	Exposure, metering, zone system. Handbook pp. 151-187	
Session 21 Tuesday, November 20	Printing in darkroom: special techniques, manipulated photography.	Special techniques Handbook pp. 341-365	
Session 22 Thursday, November 22	Lecture: Avantgarde and manipulated photography.	Rosalind E. Krauss: The Photographic Conditions of Surrealism Travis J Denneson: Wittgenstein on Seeing NYU Classes	
Session 23 Tuesday, November 27	Overview of students' photographs for Exhibition (free theme, free number of pictures).		
Session 24 Thursday, November 29	Students' Photographs Exhibition – Overview, retouching, mounting, framing (from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). Opening at 6 p.m. The whole campus is invited to the opening. The date of the Exhibition is subject to change.		
Session 25 Tuesday, December 4	Lecture: Contemporary Photography	Jeff Wall: Marks of Indifference Thomas Demand. Miroslav Petříček: Serial Maps of the World NYU Classes	
Session 26 Thursday, December 6	Field Trip (Exhibiton) or Guest Lecture		

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 27 Tuesday, December 11	Group critique. Presentation of Photo Project 3: Composition study (6 prints minimum), hard copy annotation.	Graham Harman: The Quadruple Object Levi R. Bryant: The Democracy of Objects NYU Classes	
Session 28 Thursday, December 13 (last day of classes)	Lecture: Lens focal length, lenses. Summary	Lenses. Handbook pp. 103-137	
Session 29 Tuesday, December 18	Final test on history, theory, technology (darkroom) and technical mastery (camera basics and exposure) of photography. The test is based on lectures and instructions as well as information received by the students through reading the Readers.		
Session 30 Thursday, December 20	Individual consultations		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

Required texts are included in the **Handbook** available in the library. More texts will be posted on NYU Classes during semester.

Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

- Insert optional textbook or material name
- Insert optional textbook or material name

Resources Internet Research Guidelines

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Internet Research Guidelines

[Masters of Photography:](http://www.masters-of-photography.com) <http://www.masters-of-photography.com>

[Artnet:](http://www.artnet.com/artists/) <http://www.artnet.com/artists/>

[Magnumphotos:](http://www.magnumphotos.com) <http://www.magnumphotos.com> (photographers)

[Atget Photography:](http://www.atgetphotography.com/) <http://www.atgetphotography.com/>

[Met Museum](http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search): <http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online/search>

[MoMA](http://www.moma.org/collection): <http://www.moma.org/collection>

[Jackson Fine Art](http://www.jacksonfineart.com/artists.php): <http://www.jacksonfineart.com/artists.php>

[Monoskop](https://monoskop.org/Monoskop) : <https://monoskop.org/Monoskop>

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor's note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Academic Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

Late assignment must be brought to my attention before submission.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” **(Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)**

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

