



Western University
Department of Visual Arts
VAS3340-2016/17
Advanced Photo
VAC 139
Thursdays 14:30-17:30

Professor: Kelly Wood
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Office Hours: Thursdays, 13:00-14:30 or by appointment
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Advanced Photography

This course is a survey and study of various contemporary approaches to photographic history and practice. The class will be organized around various technical demonstrations and tutorials. This class will offer tutorials and demonstrations of digital photographic techniques using small format photography. Lectures and historical support material will be organized thematically. Students will benefit from exposure to a diverse and wide-ranging field of approaches to photography and are presented with productive evaluative modes of interpretation.

Introductory visual presentations and lectures will be offered in this class. Students of this course will be required to make a formal presentation of a selected topic, and, write a review and/or response to a reading assignment. This course will primarily involve the production of a number of photographic projects that will expand and practically inform the theoretical discussions based in the thematic presentations.

Note:

An aim of this course is to expose the student to a very broad range of photographic art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is nowadays called ‘mature subject matter’. Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to independently formulate and realize visual ideas with appropriate technical competence in digital image capture and digital post-production photography. The student will benefit from an introduction to small-format camera techniques, studio practices and basic to advanced digital photography techniques. The student will also learn to critically assess and discuss their own work, and the work of their peers, with reference to recent professional practices and theoretical models of photography-based art making presented and discussed in class.

Learning Outcomes:

Successful students of this class will gain the ability to use a basic range of established techniques in the field of contemporary photography. Students will acquire a general knowledge and understanding of many key concepts, methodologies, and theoretical approaches in contemporary art photography. While engaging in creative activity in the primary area of study, students will foster, where appropriate, an ability to gather, review, evaluate and interpret information relevant to contemporary photography. Students will gain transferable photographic skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and/or other activities.

Course Materials*:

A small-format, digital, single-lens reflex camera (D-SLR) is required for this course (minimum 6MB image file adequate). In some cases, a higher-quality, point-and-shoot camera with creative control functions may be acceptable. **Some** digital cameras are available at the Visual Arts department sign-out office. Students will find it useful to have a 'memory stick,' or, external hard drive, for the storage and transfer of larger digital files. A USB card-reader may be useful for transferring images from the camera's memory card to lab computers, especially if your DSLR uses a proprietary memory card. Students should expect to produce their own digital files (some use of internet imagery is allowed) and prints, and, buy their own paper and other materials.

Current charges for digital printing with the Visual Arts Epson digital printer is approximately \$\$ per SQUARE FOOT. The large-format printer is reserved for Graduate use, however, some exceptions can be made if negotiated in advance. Cheaper, and faster, printing for small, or medium format, prints can be obtained from: Forest City Image Works, Kinko's, Blacks, Mercury Printers, and even Walmart.

Course requirements:

Each student is responsible to meet the requirements of all project assignments, procedures and due dates. Attendance in all classes is mandatory. Work will not be accepted from students missing 15%, or more, of class time (i.e. approx. 1.5 classes per term) without documented medical or bereavement reason and may be debarred from participating in final studio evaluations and submission. Students who are consistently absent from a portion of a course will be considered absent from the class, and when the 15% limit is reached, they may be similarly disbarred. Class contact hours will be crucial for this course. Be on time! Technical workshops, presentations, critiques, lectures and discussions will happen during class time and will not be repeated.

Class time will be devoted to lectures, tutorials, demonstrations, presentations, critiques and studio work time (worksessions) allotted to the students of this class to occupy the digital lab exclusively for their own purposes to complete assignments. The student is expected to spend an amount of time equivalent to the courses' assigned 3 hour weight working towards meeting course requirements outside of class time.

Students are required to observe all specified mandatory safety protocols governing lab and studio use.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

At the end of the course all work must be removed from lockers and workspaces. The department cannot guarantee the security of any work or materials left unattended after April 15th.

Academic requirements:

At an agreed time during the first term, each student will present a slide lecture on a photography related subject or individual artist.

Over the course of the year, approximately 7 photographic projects will be assigned. These projects will consist of a presentation of your completed study in the form of **photo prints**.

One reading will be assigned during the academic year. Choice of text may be fixed or negotiated through class discussion. Students are required to prepare a commentary/review/summary (minimum 750 words) on the reading and participate fully in class discussions of the text.

Failure to attend all classes and complete all assignments by announced deadlines is unacceptable without documented excuse for medical or other legitimate reasons. A one-time, late penalty of 10% shall be applied to all late submissions. Written and studio assignments are due at the commencement of the class for class discussion and critique; late assignments will be considered those assignments handed in on the due date after the class has ended. Extensions, granted for valid reasons, must be negotiated before assignments are due. Late assignments should be submitted to the office of the department of Visual Arts.

All written assignments must be typed and printed out, or submitted through Western's OWL platform. Emails, including email attachments, will not be accepted.

Last day to drop this course without academic penalty is November 30th, 2016. All assignments must be handed in by the last day of classes.

Grading Breakdown:

Slide lecture/presentation	10%
Photographic projects	70%
Reading commentary/review/summary	10%
Quality of class participation/attendance	10%