

Last Revised: January 2021

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: History of Photography **Course Number:** ARTH 201 **Credits:** 3

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring) **Total Hours:** 39
12 (Summer)

Course Level: First Year Second Year
 New Revised Course
 Replacement Course

Department: Humanities **Department Head:** P. Best **Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable):** N/A

Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE): ARTH 100

Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE): NONE

Precluded Courses: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive study of the history of photographic theories, technologies, practices, and criticism. The course will introduce students to diverse aspects in the development of photography across the world, from its invention in the nineteenth century to the emergence and current outbreak of digital and mobile technologies in the 21st century.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Be familiar with the definitions and vocabulary proper to the history of photography.
- Understand social, ideological, political, and cultural motivations involved in the development and uses of photography in different periods and historical moments.
- Be familiar and engage with historical and contemporary debates surrounding the uses and relevance of photographic practices today.
- Demonstrate critical thinking, inquisitiveness, and research skills.
- Participate in class discussions and debates to share ideas about the wider visual culture in our current society.

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades Percentage Pass/Fail Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory Other

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 45% <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i>	Lab Work: %	Participation: % <i>Specify nature of participation:</i> Class engagement 5% Attendance 5% Interaction 5%	Project: % <i>Specify nature of project:</i>
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 20%	Final Exam: 20%	Other: %

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

- A World History of Photography, 5th Edition, by Naomi Rosenblum. (New York: Abbeville, 2019)
- Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography, by Roland Barthes. (New York: Hill & Wang, 1981)

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic	Chapter
Week 1	Introduction to the Course/What Is a Photograph? Debate	Berger, John. Understanding a Photo
Week 2	Before We Fixed the Shadows: Early Years/Portraits, Economy, and the Popularization of the Medium.	Rosenblum, Naomi. Ch.1 & 2.
Week 3	The Displacement of Painting: Document Photography I & II: Landscapes, Events, War	Rosenblum, Naomi. Ch.3 & 4.
Week 4	Authenticity, Negatives, and Copies/Photography as Truth	Benjamin, Walter & Sontag, Suntag.
Week 5	Evidences, Traces, Mugshots/The Vernacular: Personal & Tourist Photography	John Tagg & Holland, Patricia.
Week 6	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 7	The Vernacular II: Technology and New Subject Matter	Rosenblum, Naomi. Ch.6.
Week 8	Documents: Social Documentary and Photojournalism/Photography and the Avant-Garde	Rosenblum, Naomi. Ch.8 & 9.
Week 9	Post-War Photography in North America and Japan/Identities and Commodity Culture	Rosenblum, Naomi. Ch.10 & Anandi, Ramamurthy.
Week 10	Social Uses of the Photographic Image	Bourdieu, Pierre.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 11 Deconstructing Photography/Semiotics of Meaning

Sekula, Allan &
Rosenblum, Naomi.
Ch.11.

Week 12 Camera Lucida: The Seen and the Said

Roland, Barthes,
"Camera Lucida".

Week 13 Digital Photography/Faces, Snaps, Instants

Ritchin, Fred &
Serafinelli, Elisa.

Week 14 **FINAL EXAM**

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: bctransferguide.ca