

**Class Overview**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **General Class Information**  *All fields must be completed and posted in UVaCollab and World Viewable in SIS no later than two weeks prior to registration.* | | | | | |
| **Subject Area &**  **Catalog Number** | ISHU 3500 | **Class Title** | Photography as Art | |
| **Credit Type** | **Credit**  *Undergraduate*  *Graduate*  **Noncredit** | | **Delivery Method** | **P (In-Person)**  **CI (Classroom/Internet)**  **WB (Web-Based)** |

1. **Class Description (Use the SIS 400 characters from catalog description)**

Examines the tense but fruitful relationship between photography and art. Draws upon aesthetics, history, and criticism to explore controversies about photography as art, examine the impact of photography on artistic ideas and practices, and evaluate the importance of photography and art in modern culture.

1. **Learning Outcomes**

Through reading, discussing and writing about these questions and specific pictures, students will learn visual analysis and writing skills, become conversant with key figures and concepts in the history of art and photography, practice critical and historical thinking, and articulate their personal experiences of cultural values.

1. **Assessment Components**

Participation, 15%. Discussion topics, based on on assigned reading selections and pictures to look at, are assigned in advance. (See Schedule).

Quizzes, 15%. Weekly quizzes check students' familiarity with the most important images, artists, facts, and vocabulary from readings and lectures. Lists of not more than 20 items per week to study will be given out at least a week in advance; a typical quiz will include 5 images to identify and 5 names or terms to explain.

Homework, 35%. Short weekly written assignments (approx. 2 pages each) help students process information in lectures and readings and prepare for discussions. The typical written assignment will focus on a specific photograph, photographer, or issue, and it will also emphasize one writing skill such as compelling visual description; judicious use of facts, observations, and quotations garnered from your reading; or construction of persuasive arguments. Some optional photographing assignments, including written commentary, will be offered for students who wish to engage first-hand with the medium (no particular experience required).

Term project, 35%. For the term project, students are asked to articulate a personal, historically-informed commentary on the relationship between art and photography and the relevance (or irrelevance) of each in modern life. Drafts of parts of the term project may be assigned in advance as homework or as in-class writing. The instructor will work with students to develop projects are relevant to their personal and/or professional interests. Possible projects include writing research papers, designing mock exhibitions, presenting one's own photographs or illustrated journal, or reviewing current photographic practices in one's own field.

Assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale and the final grade will be calculated as follows: 93-100=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, 60-62=D-, 0-59=F.

There will be no final exam in this class.

1. **Required Text (include ISBN, specific edition)**

1. Edwards, Steve. Photography, A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0-19-280164-7.

2. Photography Speaks: 150 Photographers On Their Art. New York: Aperture, 2005. ISBN 978-1931788502.

1. **Required Additional Resources and Technical Components**

Additional assigned reading and images will be posted as pdfs or web links at the course Collab page.

1. **Other Class Expectations (for Classroom/Internet and Web-Based classes, specify any live (synchronous) meetings dates, times, delivery mode)**

One or two class periods will be rescheduled to allow visits to museums and galleries in Washington DC. Students who are unable to attend with the class because of schedule conflicts must visit the exhibits on their own and turn in assignments via email.