

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ART 347    **TITLE:** The History of Photography (1900- present)  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours  
**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)
  
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities  
**CSU GE:**  
    CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C1 - Arts (Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theater)
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
    The history of the social, artistic and technical developments in photography beginning with the turn of the twentieth century: An examination of photography's broad impact as a cultural, visual and social force including the diversity of 20th and 21st Century photographic movements. Examines the impact photography has had in shaping societies' views in regards to journalism, media, developments in the arts and science, as well as cultural and personal identity.
  
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Recognize and appreciate the wide range of ethnically, culturally, and socially diverse representations and practices in contemporary photography.
  2. Evaluate and critique contemporary photographic imagery as a powerful medium of visual communication, through discussion, observation, and writing.
  3. Identify iconic images and major trends in contemporary photography.
  
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Examine the history of contemporary photography as a science, an art and as a medium for visual communication.
  2. Distinguish various types of contemporary photographic trends, and how they have affected the growth of aesthetics, social, industrial, cultural, and other visual arts.
  3. Evaluate the role of photography in world communication, and as a tool for social change, while investigating and appraising the work of important women and minority photographers.
  4. Investigate how and why other visual media have affected photography, and be able to assess the contributions of major photographic artists, and movements to better understand the evolution of contemporary photography.
  5. Examine photographic styles of portraiture, landscape, architecture, still life, directorial mode, and documentary work, and select, compare and contrast photographic artists, movements, and techniques to better understand one's own relationship to the medium.
  6. Summarize advancements in 20th and 21st century technology that have affected both the commercial and artistic directions of photography; including the halftone process, the Leica camera, introduction of color materials, artificial lighting, and computer generated imagery.
  7. Analyze photographs in regard to composition, treatment, subject matter, and culturally specific ways of seeing.
  
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**
  1. Examine the history of contemporary photography as a science, an art and as a medium for visual communication.
    - A. Summary review of 19th Century photography for 20th and 21st C. foundation
    - B. 20th Century photography to the present
    - C. Visual communication and the photographic medium
  2. Distinguish various types of contemporary photographic trends, and how they have affected the growth of

- aesthetics, social, industrial, cultural, and other visual arts.
- A. The Modern World
  - B. Photographic art and propaganda
  - C. The introduction of Photo-journalism
3. Evaluate the role of photography in world communication, and as a tool for social change, while investigating and appraising the work of important women and minority photographers.
    - A. In the 1930s and 40s, documentary photography as a way of defining the American experience of both the depression and WWII.
    - B. Photography in the 1950s
    - C. Social documentary work from the 1970s forward
  4. Investigate how and why other visual media have affected photography, and be able to assess the contributions of major photographic artists, and movements to better understand the evolution of contemporary photography. Pictorialism and the influence of painting on photography Alfred Stieglitz, as influential photographer and photography proponent
    - A. Pictorialism and the influence of painting on photography Alfred Stieglitz, as influential photographer and photography proponent
    - B. Describe the major historical changes that occurred between WWI and WWII
    - C. Photography in the 1960s
      - a. N.Y. exhibition called "New Documents" (1967) photographic artists: Garry Winogrand, Lee Friedlander, and Diane Arbus
    - D. Late 20th C. trends
      - a. Sequencing in photography as either narrative or visual display by artists such as Duane Michals
      - b. Postmodernism, and the impossibility of an original photograph by artists such as Richard Prince
    - E. Compare and contrast contemporary photographic imagery in order to challenge established traditions and concepts
  5. Summarize advancements in 20th and 21st century technology that have affected both the commercial and artistic directions of photography; including the halftone process, the Leica camera, introduction of color materials, artificial lighting, and computer generated imagery.
    - A. Introduction of Kodak Camera
    - B. Amateur photography
    - C. Photographic reproduction
    - D. The invention of color photography
    - E. Photography in a digital age: The exploration of new visualization made possible by the new technological tools
  6. Analyze photographs in regard to composition, treatment, subject matter, and culturally specific ways of seeing.
    - A. Visual elements of composition
    - B. Balance, Perspective, Juxtaposition
  7. Return to the Past
    - A. New interest in historical photographic processes resurfaces
    - B. Artists use gum-bichromate, cyanotype, brown printing, handcoloring combined images and collage
    - C. Artists challenge the traditional ideas of the medium
  8. Trends in 21st C. photography
    - A. An overview of photographers making purely visual images--the formalist ideal
    - B. History and Identity informs diverse takes on photography
    - C. The post-photographic era

## 7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Critique
- C. Directed Study
- D. Discussion
- E. Field Trips
- F. Guest Speakers

## 8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

- A. A typed, two-page critique of an assigned contemporary exhibition
- B. A 1,500-word minimum, written research paper on a 20th/21st Century contemporary trend, artist or technical development in photography. The paper's topic must be outlined and reviewed by the instructor for approval. Works cited required. Participation in organized group presentation of researched subject matter.
- C. Extra credit such as: a second typed, two-page written critique of an approved contemporary exhibition or a ten minute oral presentation of a photographic process, trend, or artist.

**Reading Assignments:**

Required reading from assigned chapters of textbook and additional material as provided in class or with web site address(es)

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Video Lectures, as well as relevant documentaries and filmed interviews with photographers.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Homework
- C. Oral Presentation
- D. Papers
- E. Quizzes
- F. Research Projects
- G. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Marien, Mary Warner. *Photography: A Cultural History*, 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc., 2014
- B. Ian Haydn Smith. *The Short Story of Photography: A Pocket Guide to Key Genres, Works, Themes & Techniques*, 1st ed. London, England: Laurence King Publishing, 2018

**Origination Date:** March 2019

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** November 2019

**Effective Term:** Fall 2020

**Course Originator:** Tressa Pack