

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communication and Media Studies COMS 401.43, LEC 2

Special Topics in Communication and Media Studies

Photography: A Social History

Winter 2019

Mon., Jan. 14 – Mon., Apr. 8 (excluding Feb. 18)

Lectures: Mon. 12:00 – 2:45pm

Instructor: Annie Rudd
Office: SS 312
Office Phone: (403) 220-5458 (email preferred)
E-Mail: annie.rudd@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: M 3:15-5:00pm, or by appointment

Course Description

In this course, students will be introduced to an inclusive and interdisciplinary history of photography, and will engage with key questions and debates that have surrounded the practice of photography during critical moments in its history. Studying photography and its cultural meanings from the earliest Victorian photographs to the ubiquitous digital imagery of the present day, we will explore the social, political, and ethical implications of taking photographs—and appearing in them—as they have emerged over the course of photography's history. In doing so, we will consider how these implications have shifted over time and across many of the medium's myriad functions. Approaching photography's social history thematically rather than chronologically, this course will allow students to make connections between the photography of the past and that of the present moment.

Objectives of the Course

This course aims:

- to familiarize you with major developments and themes in the history of photography, focusing broadly on the social meanings of photographs;
- to equip you with a theoretical apparatus and a vocabulary that will enable you to critically interpret photographs;
- to introduce you to techniques of historical research involving the use of photographic images.

Course Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted to the course D2L site.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

The use of laptops and tablets is permitted in this class provided that they are used solely for note-taking and other in-class activities, and they do not present a distraction to you or others. The use of smartphones is not permitted in class—they must be silenced and placed in your bag during class, but can be used during the break. **Note that no video or audio recording or transmission is permitted during class.** Exceptions will be made for students who require accessibility accommodations—if this is your situation, please let me know at the start of the term.

If distraction due to electronic devices is impeding class participation, a policy prohibiting the use of all electronic devices may be introduced. Therefore, it's in your best interest to ensure that you are using laptops exclusively for class work.

Some in-class activities and writing assignments may require you to write by hand, so please bring a pen or pencil to class.

A Note on Email Communication

Emails to me should have “COMS 401” mentioned in the subject line. Please do not use email to ask questions that can be answered by looking at the course outline or D2L. I aim to answer emails within 48 hours of receiving them—if you have emailed me and have not heard back within this timeframe, please feel free to send a follow-up message. You are expected to check your University of Calgary email regularly, as important course information will likely be sent out via email from time to time.

Assignments and Evaluation

Please note that this is a reading- and writing-intensive course. If you anticipate difficulty keeping up with the readings or satisfactorily completing a significant amount of written work, this course may not be a good choice for you.

Your grade in this course will be determined based on the following criteria; see details on each component below. If you would like more details on the criteria or expectations of any assignment, please don't hesitate to ask.

Weight	Assignment	Due
20%	Participation in discussion and in-class activities (includes presentation, worth 1/3 of participation grade; does not include in-class writing prompts or Wikipedia edit-a-thon)	Throughout semester
20%	Image study	February 27
10%	Wikipedia edit-a-thon	In class on March 4
20%	In-class writing prompts (5 in total; lowest mark will be dropped)	Throughout semester
30%	Final essay	April 8

Extra 2%	Optional extra credit assignment: essay presentation	Notes/slides uploaded by April 6; presentation takes place April 8
----------	--	--

Participation and In-Class Assignments

As this is a smaller class without tutorial sections, regular participation is expected and will be essential not only to your success, but to the experience that each student has in the class. Your participation will be assessed based on the frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions, your participation in in-class activities, and a brief presentation that you will give to the class, worth 1/3 of your participation grade. (More details on presentations will be provided in class.) Given the importance of participation, regular attendance is essential. You should come to every class with the readings completed and in hand, ready to discuss them. A participation rubric will be provided on D2L.

Image Study

You will be required to write one image study, which will be due on February 27. With this image study, you will choose one or more photographs and offer a critical analysis of your chosen image(s) with reference to course readings, at least one scholarly outside source and, if you like, class discussions. Further details will be provided early in the semester.

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon

In class on March 4, you will participate in a Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon. Working in groups, you will create or expand a Wikipedia entry on a figure who is important to the social history of photography but is underrepresented on Wikipedia. This assignment will be assessed based on your preparation (you will be given advance instructions on Wikipedia editing and a relevant reading to complete), the research skills you demonstrate, and the quality of your contributions to the Wikipedia page you work on. Further details will be provided well in advance.

In-Class Writing Prompts

In addition to the in-class group activities that will be counted toward your participation mark, you will be required to complete five short in-class writing assignments throughout the semester. These writing assignments will ask you to reflect on some aspect of the course content and discuss at least one of the week's readings. Dates of these writing assignments will not be provided in advance, and no make-ups are possible, so it's essential that you attend class regularly in order to avoid missing these assignments. That said, only your top four writing assignments will be counted toward your final grade.

Final Essay

Your major assignment for this class will be a final essay of at least 1800 words, due April 8. You will be asked to craft a well-researched, thoughtfully argued essay that offers critical analysis of one or more photographs, with reference to course readings as well as at least three outside scholarly sources. A set of potential essay questions will be provided to you, but you are also permitted to propose your own essay topic. You can propose your topic via email or by visiting office hours. Technical details relating to the essay and proper citation will be provided in class and on D2L. Essays are to be submitted via the D2L Dropbox

labeled "Final Essay" before class (by noon) on April 8, and a paper copy must also be submitted in class on April 8.

Optional Extra-Credit Assignment: Essay Presentation

You will have the option to deliver a concise (2 to 3 minutes, maximum), compelling presentation of your final essay to the class during our final meeting on April 8. You may wish to make a brief slide presentation to illustrate your discussion. Slides and any presentation notes must be uploaded to the D2L Dropbox labeled "Final Essay Presentation" no later than the end of the day on April 6. This will be the only opportunity to complete an extra-credit assignment in this course.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Note: All assignments and exams weighted more than 10% must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your TA or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations and Deferrals:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or for another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not

require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that when accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Short writing assignments (reading responses and image studies) will be reported as raw point scores, while final essays will be reported as letter grades.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%

2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings on next page

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

Important note: All reading assignments are subject to change! Please check D2L regularly for the most up-to-date version of the reading schedule.

Week 1

January 14

Introduction to the course.

Reading: None this week.

Week 2

January 21

Some introductory photography theories and techniques of analysis.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 3

January 28

Photography and portraiture.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 4

February 4

Photography, power, and discipline.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 5

February 11

Photography as documentation.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 6

February 18

Reading week—no class meeting this week.

Week 7

February 25

Class trip to University of Calgary photography archives.

Reading: See D2L.

February 27

Image analysis is due before midnight via D2L Dropbox.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 8

March 4

Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon in class.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 9

March 11

Photography in public.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 10

March 18

Family photography.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 11

March 25

Photography and the body.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 12

April 1

Photography's manipulations.

Reading: See D2L.

Week 13

April 8

Final essay is due in class. You must submit a digital copy via the D2L Dropbox before class (by noon), and a paper copy in class. If you are unable to attend class, you may drop off a paper copy in the CMF Department Office, SS 320, but please be certain that you also submit a digital copy to D2L before class to avoid a grade reduction.

Concluding discussion and research presentations.