

VIS60: Introduction to Photography

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30-10:50am, Peterson 104

Cindy Bernard, Professor

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Office hours: Thursdays, 1-2pm and by appointment

Sections T/Th 11:30-1:20/1:30-3:20; W/F 12:00-1:50

TAs: Deanna Erdmann, Jenny Medlin, Kate Wall

Objectives:

We'll examine the practical and theoretical issues of the camera as a machine for making art. Technical skills are learned through demonstrations and assignments - you'll learn to operate a 35mm camera and to print color photographs. Presentation and analytical skills are developed through group crits and discussion. Readings cover issues in contemporary art with an emphasis on ideas relevant to photography.

Course Format:

Lecture, demonstrations, lab, discussion and critique of assignments

Requirements:

Attendance of lectures and sections

Active participation in discussions and critiques

Successful completion of assignments

Grading:

Class participation, individual effort and development over the course of the quarter: 30 points

Assignment 1: 10 points

Assignment 2: 10 points

Assignment 3: 20 points

Assignment 4: 30 points

A = exceptional engagement in assignments as well as original, well considered participation in class discussions and crits

B = thoughtful completion of assignments and active participation in class discussions

C = adequate completion of assignments and average participation in discussions

D = lack of thought and effort evident in discussions and assignments, poor work

F = total loss

Late assignment and crit attendance: automatic drop of one grade level on assignment.

An assignment is late if not ready for presentation at the beginning of class on due date (the first day of crit for any assignment). When crits last more than a single session, failure to attend **both crits** is equivalent to a late assignment.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session and section

3 unexcused absences = F

3 "tardys" = 1 absence

Textbooks

Required: London, **Photography** (8th edition) – should be available in the bookstore

Other reading will be available on E-Reserves

VIS60: Introduction to Photography

Cindy Bernard, Professor

Page 2

Class Schedule (non-crit classes subject to change as the quarter progresses)

Week 1: January 10th/January 12th

Tuesday: Lecture: Intro to the class/what type of camera to get/materials etc.
Section: Section and grading policies, Introductions

Thursday: Lecture: Photo histories 1
Section: Bring 3 slides to discuss, Adds

Reading/History-theory:

Sontag, Susan, *The Heroism of Vision* (1973), **On Photography**, pp. 85-112
Crimp, Douglas, *The Museum's Old, The Library's New Subject, On The Museum's Ruins*, pp. 65-83

Week 2: January 17th/January 19th

Tuesday: Lecture: Photo histories 2
Section: More Slides, Discuss Assignment 1

Thursday: Lecture: Color printing basics
Section: Discuss Readings, Do lab walkthrough, Enlarger Demo, Locker and Key Codes

Reading/Tech: Upton, **Photography**, Chapter 9 (Color), 135, 138-9, 152-3, 16 (Seeing Photographs)
Horenstein, Henry, *Making Color Prints, Color Photography: A Working Manual*, pp.153 -160

Week 3: January 24th/January 26th

Tuesday: Lecture: Photo histories 3
Section: Proof Assignment 1 (first proof sheet)

Thursday: Lecture: Camera Basics
Section: Print Assignment 1 (first print)

Reading/Tech: Upton, **Photography**, Chapters 1 (Getting Started), 2 (Camera), 3 (Lens)

Week 4: January 31st/February 2

Tuesday: Lecture: Light and Film
Section: Crit Assignment 1/Discuss Assignment 2

Thursday: Lecture: Where do ideas come from/Influences
Section: TBD

Reading/Tech: Upton, **Photography**, Chapters 4 (Light & Film), 5 (Exposure)

Week 5: February 7/February 9th

Tuesday: Lecture: New Objectivity 1
Section: Crit Assignment 2/Discuss Assignment 3

Thursday: Lecture: New Objectivity 2
Section: More slides, Discuss readings

Reading/history-theory: Evans, Walker, *The Reappearance of Photography, Classic Essays on Photography*, pp. 185-188
Benjamin, Walter, *A Short History of Photography, Classic Essays on Photography*, pp. 199-216

VIS60: Introduction to Photography

Cindy Bernard, Professor

Page 3

Week 6: February 14th/February 16th

Tuesday: Lecture: Rhetoric of the Image
Section: Present Assignment 3 paragraphs to class

Thursday: Lecture: Rethinking Representation
Section: More slides, discuss readings

Reading/history-theory: Barthes, Roland, *Rhetoric of the Image* (1964), **Image-Music-Text**, pp. 32-51, 52
Solomon-Godeau, Abigail, *Winning the Game When the Rules have Changed: Art Photography and Post-Modernism* (1983), **The Photography Reader**, pp. 152-163

Week 7: February 21th/February 23rd

Tuesday: Lecture: Staged Images 1
Section: Individual meetings

Thursday: Lecture: Staged images 2
Section: Lab

Week 8: February 28th/March 2nd

Tuesday: Lecture: TBD
Section: Crit Assignment 3

Thursday: Lecture: Photography/Performance 1
Section: Crit Assignment 3

Reading/history-theory: TBD

Week 9: March 7th/March 9th

Tuesday: Lecture: Instructor in Lab
Section: Lab

Thursday: Lecture: Instructor in Lab
Section: Lab

Week 10: March 14th/March 16th

Tuesday: Lecture: Photography/Performance 2
Section: Crit Assignment 4

Thursday: Lecture: Selected newbies
Section: Crit Assignment 4

Final: Slides: Best of the class, return portfolios

VIS60: Introduction to Photography

Cindy Bernard, Professor

Page 4

Assignment #1

Choose an object and photograph it 27 times, never repeating a shot. No two shots should be the same! Use a disposable camera for this assignment. Turn in one proof sheet and one final 8x10 inch print.

Negatives are due 1st section meeting week 3

Final print is due 1st section meeting week 4

1. purchase a disposable camera, 400 or 800 ASA, with or without flash, 27 exposures
2. choose an object and photograph it
3. take the film to a lab - request that the film be processed only and that the negative be sleeved and not cut
4. bring the negatives to your first section meeting for making proof sheets.
Supplies needed: negatives, scissors, negative sheet*, paper (for printing), sharpie, notebook.
5. bring the negatives and proofs to your second section meeting for making prints. Supplies needed: negatives, proof sheet, paper (for printing), sharpie, notebook, lupe, canned air, cardboard.
6. you may want to make time on the weekend for making additional prints
7. Crit for this assignment is the first section meeting – bring 3 prints for crit and turn in one for grade

*recommended Print File #2602 (35 frames but fits 8x10" paper) or #7700 (also holds 8x10" proof sheet)

Assignment #2 – assignment sheet handed out week 4; due week 5

Assignment #3

Choose a subject (a theme, a concept) and shoot at least 3 rolls of film experimenting with different strategies for relaying your subject. Turn in your proof sheets and a minimum of 5 prints.

Due week 6, 1st section meeting: Paragraph discussing theme (250-500 words)

Due week 8, 1st section meeting: Proofs and prints

Assignment #4

Turn in a final portfolio of 10 to 15 finished prints. At least 50% of the portfolio should consist of new work

Due week 10, 1st section meeting