

ARTHIST 4322:80 History of Photography Fall 2026

Course Information

- Course Description: Survey of history and evolution of photography since its invention in 1839 to the present day.
- This is a 3-credit course. This course meets the Course Credit Hour Expectation outlined in the Course Catalog.
- This is a fully online course. We will not meet as a group.

Required Course Materials

- Readings will be provided online using [Smarthistory](#); [George Eastman Museum](#); [Getty Center](#); and videos from YouTube.

Technology Requirements

- UNI email. Always check your email!
- Word processing program: Microsoft Word, Google Doc etc.
- Google Drive and Google Slides (available with your UNI email account)
- eLearning/Blackboard/ Learn/Ultra—these are all names for UNI's Learning Management System (LMS)
- Blackboard: You must be able to access Blackboard outside of class and know how to download and upload documents. [Training/tutorials are available here.](#)
- Phone with camera (you will need to upload photos into eLearning)
- Free account at Canva.com
- Zoom (available with your UNI email)
- Technical Support: The Office of Online Education & Individual Studies is your primary point of contact in accessing technical support. If you experience and tech-related problems, please contact CDE at 319-273-7740 (UNI area) or 800-772-1746 (national). Email: cesp-consult@uni.edu

Course Objectives

Students who complete the course should be able to:

- Recognize key photographers and photographic styles.
- Describe the broader uses of photography within historical and contemporary contexts.
- Analyze photographs in relation to form and context.
- Synthesize assigned concepts with material discovered through research.

Activities and Grading

- Reading and viewing videos about photography
- Writing about the history of photography
- Speaking about the history of photography
- Creating charts and other graphic documents for presentations

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following assignments:

- Discussions 15%
- Quizzes 15%
- Journals 20%
- Assignments 50%

Grading Scale

A: 94-100, A-: 90-93, B+: 87-89, B: 84-86, B-: 80-83, C+: 77-79, C: 74-76, C-: 70-73, D+: 67-69, D: 64-66, D-: 60-63, F: 0-59

General Outline of Topics

- 19th Century: Early Processes & the First Photographers
- Photography & the Traditions of Portraiture
- Landscapes: Artistic & Pragmatic
- Picturing Reality & Documenting War
- Pictorialism: Is It Art Yet?
- Photography & Society
- Photojournalism
- Capturing Motion
- Urbanism, Mass Culture, & Modernity/The New Vision
- Photography & Advertising
- The f/64 Group: Previsualization & Purity
- Documentary Photography & the Great Depression
- Street Photography
- Manipulated & Staged Photography
- Compositional Analysis
- Contextual Analysis
- Contemporary Trends in Photography