

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
Art History Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	The Art of Photography
Course Number:	AH 211
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	ENG 102 or permission of the instructor

Course description

This course examines the main tendencies in modern art, from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth century. Students will learn about particular movements and their major protagonists, including Impressionism, Post/Neo Impressionism, Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Dada, Surrealism, Suprematism, De Stijl, Constructivism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Minimalism, and Conceptualism.

Please note that this is a reading-intensive course. This course may involve on-site classes and Friday/weekend fieldtrips in Rome and Italy.

Required Textbook *(subject to change)*

Newhall, Beaumont. *The History of Photography: From 1839 to the Present*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York 1982.

Required Readings *(subject to change)*

- Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin, London 1990 [1972].
- Scharf, Aaron. *Art and Photography*, Pelican, London 1974 [1968].

Recommended Readings *(subject to change)*

- Barthes, Roland. *Camera Lucida*. Hill and Wang, New York 2010 [1982].
- Cotton, Charlotte. *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*. Thames & Hudson, London 2009.
- Hirsch, Robert. *Seizing the light: A Social & Aesthetic History of Photography* (3rd edition), Routledge, New York 2017
- Pritchard, Dr. Michael. *A History of Photography in 50 cameras*, Firefly, New York 202
- Schwarz, Heinrich. *Art and Photography: Forerunners and Influences*, Rochester, New York 1985.
- Sontag, Susan. *On Photography*. Picador, New York 2001 [1977].
- Sontag, Susan. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Picador, New York 2003.

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. recognize and describe the key photographic processes from inception of the medium to the digital age.
2. analyze the influence of photography upon the history of art.
3. utilize the vocabulary of photographic theory and criticism in oral and written presentations.

Course Learning Activities

- In class analysis and discussions (CLO 1-3): Students are expected to actively participate in classes and class discussions. Assessment of students' participation in class discussions will be based on:
 - 1) frequency of students' responses to the course materials, professor's questions and views expressed by other students,
 - 2) the level of preparedness for class discussions,
 - 3) thoughtful of articulation of well-formulated responses, insightful questions, and provocative ideas during in-class discussions.
- Oral Presentations (CLO 1-3): Students will make six oral presentations (5% each). These will test the students' knowledge and their progress in understanding the course materials on a regular basis. Oral presentations will also serve as a basis for class discussions and the journal entries.
- Journal Essays (CLO 1-3): Students will produce six journal entries on a photographic theme (5% each). These short essays (minimum 900 words) will assess the level of students' knowledge and understanding of the materials covered in the course. The essays will also assess the level of students' observation skill (especially in regard to their ability to recognize, describe and explain particular motifs/narratives). The essays could be divided into three paragraphs roughly 300 words each. The first paragraph will BRIEFLY outline the career of the photographer chosen for discussion, emphasizing any salient and pertinent points in the biography which may have influenced the image chosen for discussion. The second paragraph (300 words) will describe the image. The third paragraph will state why it is relevant to the theme under discussion. Each journal entry must be accompanied by a reproduction of the image chosen for discussion appropriately captioned with the photographer's name (if known); the title of the work; the date it was made; the material; dimensions; and current location (if known).
- Final Journal (CLO 1/2/3): The final journal (c.2000 words) will compare and contrast two images. It should follow the same format as the other journals.

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Journals	30%
Oral Presentations	30%
Final Journal	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Specifics + Activities	Assignments
1	Introduction, course presentation.	Class discussion about students' knowledge of photography and the role of photographic images today	Berger's <i>Ways of Seeing</i> first 1972 TV episode and first chapter, pp. 7-34
		Student presentations and discussion	
2	Some critical background Berger and Benjamin		Newhall, chs. I-II
		Student presentations and discussions	
3	The origins. From the Renaissance to the eighteenth century, the discoveries of chemistry and optics / the evolution of printmaking		Newhall, chs. III-IV
		Student presentations and discussions	
4	The drive for invention. Precursors, authorship and luck: Nièpce, Talbot and Daguerre.	Class discussion on what is a 'real' photograph (negative>positive) and why daguerreotype (one copy product) had more success	Newhall, ch. V
		Student presentations and discussions	
5	Portrait for all: Different techniques in few years: from ambrotype to collodion	Technique recognition through images and original photographs	Newhall, ch. VIII
		Student presentations and discussions	
6	Space and Movement: from Muybridge to Cinema.		
		Student presentations and discussions	
7	Photography and Art 1 The impact upon painting: from reality to impressionism and abstraction.		Scharf, ch. 10
		Student presentations and discussions	
8	Photography and Art 2		Newhall, chs. VI, IX
		Student presentations and discussions	
9	Artistic Photography, Pictorialism and Photomontages		Newhall, ch. X Scharf, chs. 11-12

		Student presentations and discussions Image recognition and discussion	
10	Photography, chronophotography, photograms		Newhall, chs. XIII-XIV
		Student presentations and discussions Image recognition and discussion	
11	Photograph as a social document and as a political instrument.		
		Student presentations and discussions	
12	The birth of digital in the second half of the 20th century and its use in the Art.		
		Student presentations and discussions Image recognition and discussion	
13	Photography now. The transition from film to digital in the early 2000s, and the rise in mobile phones. The introduction of AI.		
		Class discussion and short critical writing	
14	Final Journal		

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		