

## **PHOTO 150 HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

San Diego CITY COLLEGE

**INSTRUCTOR:** Melinda Holden [melfoto@att.net](mailto:melfoto@att.net)

**Units: 3 Grade only CRN 78617 Wed. 6:30-9:30 PM Spring 2009**

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**Course Description:** This class is a survey of the history and development of photography and traces the various scientific and aesthetic issues involved in creating the 'light-based' image. It traces its progress from being a tool of fine art mediums through its involvement in the digital revolution. The course examines photography's social/cultural/economic impact on the study of history and discusses present and future directions. The class is required for photography majors in the degree program.

**Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:**

1. Define the chemical and optical requirements of the photographic process and relate the history of the development of those elements.
2. Report on major historical figures in the development of photography and link their approach or style of work.
3. Relate the evolution of photography as a medium of expression.
4. Explain how the modern photographic processes evolved.
5. Classify and critique the various schools of photographic aesthetics.
6. Analyze and critique the social and cultural influences of the photographic image.

### **Evaluation:**

A student's grade will be based on multiple measures of performance that may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Written essays and reports
2. Exams
3. Produced photographs
4. Attendance and participation

Final grade will be averaged from all grade points. A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

### **Method of instruction:**

May include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Computer assisted instruction.
2. Lecture Discussion
3. Audiovisual
4. Lecture
5. Field Trip

**Prerequisites:** There are none, but if you have taken a B/W wet darkroom course or any course requiring manual manipulation of a camera, you will easily be able to understand and follow early photographic processes. If you have taken any art history classes you may have a better understanding of the aesthetic movements that influenced photography.

**Required Text:**

Naomi Rosenbaum. **A World History of Photography**, ed. Abbyville Press, 2007  
4th edition ISBN: 978-0-7892-0937-5 , or 3rd edition, ISBN: 0789203294 1997.  
Available at City College bookstore, new, or try Amazon for a used paperback copy.  
There are few changes in the 4th edition text, but more photographs.

**Supplies:**

1. Notebook for class notes.
2. Paper for essays & reports.
3. Report covers.
4. A device for capturing images: film camera, digital camera, disposable camera, can be SLR or point-n-shoot.
5. Output: commercial lab, traditional wet darkroom or home printer.

**Computer Skills Advisory:** Entry level of computer skills expected for types of assignments requiring computer skills. (In most colleges students are expected to have basic familiarity with computer terms and use: word processing, document manipulation, e-mail and online services. These skills can be learned at any of the colleges or Continuing Education.)

**Attendance:** Your presence is very important. This class has 16, once a week, 3 hour meetings. If you miss 4 classes you will be dropped. Only those enrolled in this class may attend. Only you are covered by the school's insurance. No friends, kids, pets, or anyone wanting to audit this class, please.

**Student Conduct:** No student may interfere with a student's opportunity to learn. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please turn off cell phones. Don't be tardy, it interrupts the flow of the class.

**Academic Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations must discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of the class.

**Office Hours:**

I have no office. I can be reached by e-mail, or before & after this class and on Friday in the Photo Dept. Room T-215, during my lab only class that meets 9 AM-12 noon.

Note: I do not use the e-mail or voice mail provided by City College.

Please contact me in this method: **melfoto@att.net** or **Photo Dept. 619 388-3079** leave message.

For PDF of handouts: syllabus, reading lists and assignments please check the web page below and click on my name, then find Photo 150, click on that for handouts.

**[http://www.ndavidking.com/Otherinstructors/Otherinstructor\\_intro.htm](http://www.ndavidking.com/Otherinstructors/Otherinstructor_intro.htm)**

One day Photo will have it's own web site. For now David King, one of our lead instructors in the department, generously has made his web site the host for photo instructors.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND SCOPE:**

- I. Requirements to make a photographic image
  - A. Light sensitive materials.
  - B. Optics to focus the image.
  - C. Scientific history of those chemical/optical elements.
- II. Pioneers in the development of photography
  - A. Ancient Greeks
  - B. Early Arab Astronomy.
  - C. The Camera Obscura's development and role in painting and perspective.
  - D. Wedgewood.
  - E. Niepce.
  - F. Fox-Talbot.
  - G. Daguerre.
  - H. Negative and positive processes.
  - I. Image stability problems to solve.
- III. Development of an aesthetic for the Photographic Image
  - A. Defining an "image."
  - B. Impact on and influence of traditional art mediums.
    - 1. Painting.
    - 2. Printmaking.
  - C. The Documentary Genre
    - 1. From Fenton/Brady and beyond.
      - a. War from Crimea to Gettysburg.
      - b. Opening the Frontier and shrinking the world.
      - c. The social landscape and activist photography.
    - 2. Photo-Journalism and the quest for objectivity.
  - D. The "Professional" Genres
    - 1. Early Portraiture.
    - 2. The beginnings of advertising.
  - E. Photography as a medium of expression.
    - 1. Painting as a model.
    - 2. Pre-Raphaelites.
    - 3. Pictorialists.
    - 4. F-64 and the West Coast School.
    - 5. East Coast and 'middle coast' work.
    - 6. Surrealists.
    - 7. Major modern genre.
      - a. Nature and Landscape
      - b. Abstract
      - c. Figure/Nude
      - d. Portraiture
      - e. Social/Industrial Landscape
- IV. Evolution of the Photographic Processes
  - A. Early work with light-sensitive salts/asphaltum.
  - B. Daguerre/Daguerrotype.
  - C. Calo/Cala types.
  - D. Wet Collodion.
  - E. Albumen.
  - F. Dry Plate.
  - G. Film from celluloid to acetate.
  - H. Silver and other salts/halides.
  - I. Other processes (Description and examples).
    - 1. Platinum/Palladium
    - 2. Van Dykes
    - 3. Bromoils
  - J. 'Instant' technologies.
    - 1. Edward Land
    - 2. Kodak

- K. Digital.
- L. The future.
- V. Social/Cultural Impacts and Influences
  - A. The Photograph's influence on the study and evidence of history.
  - B. Photography's influence on social issues.
    - 1. Hine and Riis.
    - 2. FSA.
    - 3. LIFE and the "photo feature."
    - 4. Lifestyle work from Weegee to Arbus and beyond.
    - 5. War photography.
  - C. Digital's impact and influences on social issues.

### **Libraries-card catalogs**

<http://sdplweb.sannet.gov/> (downtown library)

<http://www.sdcity.edu/lrc/library/libraryhome.asp> (City College Library)

<http://roger.ucsd.edu/> (UCSD central library)

### **Museums**

<http://www.balboapark.org/> (directory)

<http://www.mopa.org/> Museum of Photographic Arts

<http://www.timkenmuseum.org/> Timkin Museum of Art (free)

<http://www.sdmart.org/> San Diego Museum of Art

[www.mcasandiego.org/](http://www.mcasandiego.org/) San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art

[www.getty.edu/museum/](http://www.getty.edu/museum/) LA The Getty Center & Getty Villa

[www.huntington.org/](http://www.huntington.org/) LA Huntington Library Art Collections & Botanical Garden

<http://www.lacma.org/> LA Los Angeles County Art Museum

<http://www.moca.org/> LA Museum of Contemporary Art

<http://www.ocma.net/index.html?page=index> LA Orange County Museum of Art

### **Galleries:**

<http://www.josephbellows.com/> SD in LaJolla, Photography

<http://www.bergamotstation.com/> LA see: Peter Fetterman, Craig Krull

<http://www.faheykleingallery.com/> LA Photography

<http://www.jankesnergallery.com/> LA Photography

<http://www.paulkopeikingallery.com/index.htm> LA Photography