

Grad HnA 19th Century 2066-701-01

Thursdays 9-11:50am room 2070

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The goal of Graduate History and Aesthetics is to discuss the rise of photography in the 19th century through the cultural, political and popular movements of the era. Our contemporary concerns are forged, supported by and respond to the past.

Our primary actions for this class will be reading and discussing. Every week there will be a lecture/presentation of imagery followed by discussion of pertinent texts. Pairs of students will be responsible for presenting selected readings every week. It is acknowledged that the reading list is extensive, however students need to do their best at keeping up with the material in order to contribute to an effective classroom experience. You are expected to be in class every week and to be an active participant in discussions.

This class should support what you are doing in the studio, not distract from it and the readings should be looked at through a contemporary perspective. To that end, students will prepare a presentation and paper that explores photography/art from the 19th century in relation to their own work. Class time presentations will begin Week 5, with final presentations/papers due Week 9.

Below is a basic outline to get us started each week. It is subject to transformation as we see fit. It certainly is not exhaustive and if there is anything that you would like to see added, please let me know. We'll also be coordinating with the Core class for field trips...

L1 > Prephoto: The New Machine – Revolution and the Rise of the Rational

- Before Photography – before Chemistry
- Frankenstein & Feminism
- Philosophy & Gentlemen – Natural Philosophy
- Camera obscura & diorama

L2-3 > Early Stages: Daguerre vs Talbot // Art vs. Photography

- Invention of photography
- The major players – Photographists
- Parallel motivation – Role of photography
- What's going on in art (Ingres vs Delacroix)
- Early thoughts of Photography as art

Week 3 – visit George Eastman House archives – Thursday 10am
Field Trip Friday 9/18 – Buffalo: Niagara Falls & Albright Knox Gallery
– Time TBA

L4 > Portrait Studio

- The clamp
- Last of the miniaturists
- Disderi and the Carte
- Nadar & new portraiture
- Cameron & the Pre-Raphaelites

L5 > Landscape – our changing relationship

- Wordsworth and the landscape reimagined
- The genteel pictorial
- Le Gray, Turner and the sublime
- Fabricating the city (to Atget)

L6 > Photography as Colonizer

- The Orient & the Far East
- Bringing the images home
- Crimean War – gentlemen soldiers

L7 > American Voice

- Civil war – democracy on the battlefield
- Democratization of photography (Southworth & Hawes)
 - Tintype
 - Postcards
 - stereographs
- National Identity and the American West

L8 > Objectivity – Standards of Truth

- The origins of truth – ready for Darwin
- Hysteria and Identity – Sprit Photography
- Scientific investigation
- Color

L9 > Concept & Art – Mid-late century

- Photographic vision, light and motion (Eakins, Muybridge, Degas)
- Manipulation of the Tableau (performance art – Day, Appelt, Burton, Abramovich; early daguerreotype experiments – *Origins*)
- Impact on the art world

L10 > Fin de Siecle

- Emerson & the Naturalists
- Early Pictorialism
- The Modern Age