



ART 333-01E - 84770 - History of Photography Fall 2026
TR 2:30 – 3:45 pm / ART111

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Melynda Seaton, Associate Professor of Art History
Office Location: Art 113
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30 – 1 pm or by appointment
Department of Art Office - 903-886-5208
Office Fax: 903-886-5987
University Email Address: Melynda.Seaton@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: M-TH: 24-48 hours, F-Sun will reply following Monday

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

- Hirsch, Robert. 2024. *Seizing the Light: A Social & Aesthetic History of Photography*. Fourth edition. Routledge.
https://tamuc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01TEXAM_COM/17dpga3/alma991006943640206041
 - The textbook is accessible for free via the ETAMU library.
- Assigned readings and videos will be accessed via D2L and online through the ETAMU library.

Course Description

An examination of the scientific and aesthetic history of photography from its origins to the present. Emphasis is placed on early processes, the pioneers of photography, photography as a visual art, and developments in modern photography. Media, trends, and photographers' work are analyzed.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the history of photography as art and technology, and the medium's influence on other art forms and popular culture from its inception in the mid-19th century to the present
- Identify important photographic images and image makers
- Achieve a familiarity with the terms related to photographs and processes, and with major milestones in the development of image-making techniques, materials, and technologies

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 89.5%-100%	A = 405-450 Points
B = 79.5%-89%	B = 360-404 Points
C = 69.5%-79% OR	C = 315-359 Points
D = 59.5%-69%	D = 270-315 Points
F = 59% or below	F = 269 & > Points

Assessments

Exams – 2 @ 100 pts each = 200 pts

Quizzes – 6 @10 pts each = 50 pts (lowest grade dropped)

Reading Response Papers – 4 @ 50 pts = 200 pts

Total Points – 450

Course Policies:

Quizzes: Cannot be made up, but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Reading Response Papers: Late submissions will incur a ½-letter-grade deduction for each day late and will not be accepted after three (3) days past the deadline.

Attendance: It is each student's responsibility to monitor their attendance. Each student in this course is allowed five (5) unexcused absences. Unexcused absences require no explanation from the student.

In this class, excused absences are: (1) participation in pre-approved University activities such as athletic events, sponsored field trips, and travel for specific University-related academic reasons; (2) verifiable legal proceedings; and (3) cases of illness, injury, or emergencies. For any absences to be considered excused, illness or otherwise, documentation for your absence must be emailed to your professor not later than 5 days after the missed class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence, NO EXCEPTIONS. When a student accrues more than five (5) unexcused absences, the instructor has the prerogative to drop the student 1 letter grade for each unexcused absence exceeding 5. For example, 6 unexcused absences will drop an "A" to a "B" and so forth. Students with excessive absences may be dropped from the course.

Academic dishonesty:

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this class. Be sure that you understand what constitutes academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, **use of AI technology**, etc.). Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in college and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, dismissal from a class, expulsion from the University, and a failing grade. Please see <https://www.etamu.edu/academic-integrity-guide/student-resources/>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

The use of AI technology is prohibited in all coursework. AI tools such as Grammarly or Quilbot should ONLY be used to assist you with spelling and grammar issues. For all written assignments, students must provide a copy of rough drafts, handwritten notes, and/or outlines prior to editing. If AI use is suspected for any assignment - written or creative – a grade of zero will be assigned, and a report of Academic Dishonesty may be filed with the provost's office.

CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM. ANY STUDENT USING TEXT MESSAGING WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE CLASS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Please be mindful and respectful of others in the classroom. In all communication, including email and discussion groups, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use of profanity, slang, or racial slurs is NOT permitted
- Be mindful of tone, keep it professional and respectful of others
- Avoid jokes, as they may not come across as such to others

Any behavior deemed disruptive by the instructor may result in a student being asked to leave class, and continued disruptions may result in expulsion from the class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the quickest and most reliable way to contact me at Melynda.Seaton@etamu.edu. I will conduct email correspondence according to the following schedule:

- Monday–Thursday: Every effort will be made to answer your emails within a 24-48-hour period.
- Friday–Sunday: I will try to answer your emails promptly, but please understand you may not receive a response until the following Monday or Tuesday.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

If you encounter problems accessing D2L, please get in touch with Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
 - Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connections to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness.

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Art 333-01E History of Photography Fall 2025 Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter	Assignment Due
Thu., Aug. 20	Intro to Course, Review Syllabus		
Tue., Aug. 25	Origins of Photography	1, 2, 3	
Thu., Aug. 27	Photography and Science	2, 3, 4	
Tue., Sep. 1	Early Documentation of War	5	
Thu., Sep. 3	Experimenting with the Medium	6	
Tue., Sep. 8	Surveying the Landscape	7	
Thu., Sep. 10	Surveying the American West- People & Places	7	Reading Response 1
Tue., Sep. 15	Capturing Time & Color	8	
Thu., Sep. 17	Mass Market Photography		
Tue., Sep. 22	Pictorialism	9	
Thu., Sep. 24	Modernism & Photography as Art	10	
Tue., Sep. 29	Modernism & Photography as Art Continued	11	
Thu., Oct. 1	Social Documentation	12	
Tue., Oct. 6	Social Documentation	13	Reading Response 2
Thu., Oct. 8	FALL BREAK		
Tue., Oct. 13	Midterm Exam		
Thu., Oct. 15	Photography & Publication	14	
Tue., Oct. 20	Mid Century Social Documentation & War	14	
Thu., Oct. 22	Photography and Cultural Activism	14 & 15	
Tue., Oct. 27	Postwar America – Capturing Culture	15	
Thu., Oct. 29	Postwar America – Photography and Art	15 & 16	
Tue., Nov. 3	Photography in the 1970s	17	Reading Response 3
Thu., Nov. 5	New Topographics and the American Landscape	17	
Tue., Nov. 10	Postmodern Photography	18	
Thu., Nov. 12	Postmodern Photography	18	
Tue., Nov. 17	Politics of Representation	19	
Thu., Nov. 19	Politics of Representation	19	
Tue., Nov. 24	Contemporary Photography	20	
Thu., Nov. 26	Thanksgiving		
Tue., Dec. 1	Contemporary Photography	20	
Thu., Dec. 3	Contemporary Photography	20	Reading Response 4
Thu., Dec. 10	Final Exam – 1:15a – 3 p		

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