



## KIIS PARIS 1, Summer 2018

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### ART 491 Topics: Photographic History of Paris

**Professor:** Lee Ann Paynter

**Email:** lapayn2@uky.edu

*Syllabus subject to change*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Paris has long been a love for photographers. The history of photography and Paris dates back to the very beginning of image capture with the work of Louis Daguerre and Joseph Niepce, the fathers of photography. In this class we will explore the city following the paths of legends like Bresson, Atget and Brassai. Students will also examine the work of more contemporary French artists such as Sophie Calle, Elliott Erwitt and JR, while learning about the evolution of drawing with light, in the city of light.

The framework of the course will involve lecture, reading, writing assignments, group discussions and photographic critique. Students will learn the formal and structural qualities of photographs while gaining and understanding of the basic tools, techniques, and aesthetics used by photographers, and their use of light to capture great images. There will be an emphasis on experiential learning via an immersive experience in the culture of Paris and its surroundings, including museum / gallery visit and city excursions. The crux of this class is using place as text in discovering the unique qualities and history of French and Parisian photography.

### PRE-REQUISITES / CO-REQUISITES

No pre-requisite is required

- There is a companion course that can be taken concurrently with this course, whereas the content of both will flow together purposefully: ART 496 Topics: Digital Photography

### TEXTBOOK(s)

**TBD, some possibilities:**

Yacavone, Kathrin. **Photography in Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures**. Edinburgh: U of Edinburgh, 2014. Print.

Barthes, Roland. **Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography**. New York: Hill and Wang, 1981. Print.

Sontag, Susan. **Susan Sontag on Photography**. London: Allen Lane, 1978. Print.

### PLACE AS TEXT

This class will take advantage of opportunities in the city such as galleries, museums, events & cultural sites.

Possible excursions: Palace of Versailles; Centre Pompidou; Galerie Perrotin; Giverny

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course will explore the development of photography as an artistic and social practice from its origins to the present day. We shall mainly study photographers who have worked in Paris.

- Introduce some of the major figures and images in the history of fine art photography, as well as retrace some of the steps and visit locations photographed.
- Gain knowledge of the language of images to better understand and critique visual art.
- Gain an understanding of elements and principles of art & an appreciation of photographic style.
- Develop skills to critically analyze, discuss & write about the photographic image as an art form.
- Understand conceptual ideas and use of metaphor in images that transcend the literalness of the object(s) photographed.
- Develop an appreciation of the diverse cultural contexts of contemporary photography.

## **SUPPLIES**

- laptop computer with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint (or similar processing software)
- sketch book for logging ideas and taking on site notes

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

All of the following will be considered when grading assignments: observation & creative expression, exploration of an idea, language of art, following instructions & participation. Your grade will be determined by attitude, attendance, effort and the following formula:

Journal Assignments: 30%

Comprehension: tests & quizzes 25%

Writing: Artist research & presentation, Gallery experience critiques 30%

Class participation: discussions & critiques 15%

90%-100%	<b>A</b> exceptional achievement, excellent understanding of subject - above & beyond requirements
80%-89%	<b>B</b> above average achievement / room for improvement, understands subject & meets requirements
70%-79%	<b>C</b> average achievement, some understanding of subject, basic requirements
60%-69%	<b>D</b> minimal effort and engagement with material & challenges, does not meet requirements
59% and below	<b>E</b> project not completed, or no serious effort applied

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

All students are expected to attend all classes and activities for the duration of the course.

## **LATE / MAKEUP WORK POLICY**

The timeline of this class will be rigorous, always complete assignments on time so you don't get behind.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

We will be participating in class activities Monday – Thursday, and some Fridays. Students will visit at least one museum or gallery each week. Students will have weekends to themselves to experience Paris and the surroundings as they wish.

Proposed schedule is as follows, but is subject to change.

### **Week 1:**

era: The beginning, (pre) 1830s – 1880s (Daguerre, Niepce, Bayard, Talbot, Herschel)

learning: The elements and principles of the photographic image / importance of light

possible assignments: Gallery visit writing / Journal writing / create a blog.

### **Week 2:**

era: 1890s – 1920s (Atget, Brancusi, Abbot, Ray)

learning: formal qualities vs structural qualities / Different processes & types of photography

possible assignments: Find this photo! / Journal writing – upload a writing blog / quiz

### **Week 3:**

era: 1930s – 1970s (Brassai, Bresson, Kertesz, Klein, Sylvain, Doisneau, Bovis, Lartigue)

learning: image and meaning / interpretation and theory / how to critique a photograph

possible assignments: Gallery visit writing / Journal writing – upload a writing blog

### **Week 4:**

era: 1980s & beyond – Contemporary Photography (Calle, Erwit, Belin, Boltanski, Bustamante, JR)

learning: Visit a photographic studio / Social meaning / Constructed images

possible assignments: Image game / Journal writing – upload a writing blog / final exam