

# PHOT 10: HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
<b>Effective Term:</b>	Summer 2025
<b>Units:</b>	4
<b>Hours:</b>	3 lecture, 3 laboratory per week (72 total per quarter)
<b>Advisory:</b>	One of the following: ENGL 1A or 1AH or ESLL 26 or equivalent; not open to students with credit in PHOT 10H.
<b>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</b>	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
<b>Foothill GE:</b>	Area 3: Arts & Humanities
<b>Transferable:</b>	CSU/UC
<b>Grade Type:</b>	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
<b>Repeatability:</b>	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Student will analyze a selected photographer's images and then discuss and present the photographer's life work in terms of how it has both reflected and helped shape our culture.
- Student will assess the contributions made in this field by people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

## Description

The history of still photography from the earliest investigations of the camera obscura to late 20th century electronic imaging. Emphasis on the role of photographs as a social and cultural force and on our artistic heritage of camera work.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Analyze historic images to understand their technological and cultural significance.
2. Evaluate how the photograph as an inexpensive and reproducible picture affected nineteenth and twentieth century culture.
3. Assess how photography influenced historic and modern painting and graphics and how those media, in turn, affect photography.
4. Identify the major photographers through their photographs and philosophies.
5. Compare and contrast the major photographic practitioners and photographic movements.
6. Analyze how contributions of photographers from different cultures and backgrounds contributed to the richness and diversity of modern photography.
7. Examine their own photographic work in relation to the photographers and styles presented during the course.
8. Investigate how the technical evolution of the medium occurred and how techniques and technology affect reportage and vision.

9. Appraise and critique in writing the important qualities of a photograph and compare and contrast one photograph to another.

## Course Content

1. Pre-history and inception of photography
  - a. The camera obscura
  - b. Early photochemical and technical experiments
  - c. Daguerre, Fox Talbot, and the early innovators and entrepreneurs
2. Technical evolution in the nineteenth century
  - a. Daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, and camera-less processes
  - b. Collodion glass plate process
  - c. Dry plates
  - d. Kodak and the rollfilm camera
3. Technical evolution in the twentieth century
  - a. Advances in optics and film sensitivity
  - b. The 35mm camera
  - c. Color films
  - d. Digital imaging
4. Major photographers and photographic genre
  - a. Landscape photography, portraiture, documentary, and other genres
  - b. The Photo-Secession, The West Coast School, Pictorialism, and other photographic movements
  - c. Journalism, documentary photography, and the evolution of war photography
  - d. Censorship, cultural bias, and freedom of expression
  - e. Commerce and photography: the gallery system, magazine, and value
5. Photography as it was used as a means for propaganda, creating cultural stereotypes and also mitigating them
  - a. Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth and their use of photography to mitigate bigoted stereotypes of formerly enslaved people
  - b. The work of Joseph T. Zealy at the behest of Louis Agassiz to use photographic portraits of people who were enslaved as a way to dehumanize and create stereotypes about them
  - c. The work of Jessie Tarbox Beals and Frances Benjamin Johnston who photographed indigenous people at the World's Fair in unflattering surroundings and poses
6. Contemporary and evolving trends
7. Writing about photography
  - a. Vocabulary of critical writing
  - b. Methods of discussion and comparison in art history

## Lab Content

1. Field trips to museums and galleries
2. Emulation of historic images in traditional or digital darkroom
3. Online discussion and critique of other students' writing

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

1. Lecture room equipped for motion picture and slide projection, computer projection, and video presentation.

2. When taught via Foothill Global Access: on-going access to computer with email software and capabilities, email address, and access to learning management system.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Objective and subjective quizzes

Short essay responses

Midterm exam

Final exam

Slide identification

Portfolio of written papers, including reviews of gallery/museum visits, book/film reviews, image analysis, and a longer research paper

## Method(s) of Instruction

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

During periods of lecture and demonstration, students will learn of the historical and technical developments in photography

When delivered on campus, field trip(s) to galleries and museums will present students with the opportunity to see relevant works up close for more intensive study of the images

Online instruction presented via lectures and discussion forums

Quizzes, exams, and short essay responses will help to test students and solidify their knowledge

## Representative Text(s) and Other Materials

Hirsch, Robert. Seizing the Light A Social & Aesthetic History of Photography. 2024.

## Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments

1. Longer essay/presentation on a photographer: 3-5 page essay about a photographer or topic in photo history that inspires you. Biographical information and significance in history of photography should be discussed. You should use a minimum of four sources, of which two must be books to research this photographer.
2. Outside readings: Choose a chapter from the list provided of the following books to read and write a short discussion of it. Post this in the online classroom. Read other students' postings and comment. Return to answer questions on your own posting. Examples of books on list: A Choice of Weapons by Gordon Parks, On Photography by Susan Sontag, Photographers on Photography: A Critical Anthology by Nathan Lyons, Beauty in Photography: Essays in Defense of Traditional Values by Robert Adams.
3. Short essay responses to assignments posted in online forum and feedback to other classmates.
4. Website articles on current event topics.
5. Photography exhibition review, 2 pages.

## Discipline(s)

Photography