

Western University, Department of Visual Arts  
Seminar in Photography: Photography & Social Change  
AH 4650G / 9594B / 9694B - Winter 2020

Gilles Peress, FDNY paramedics near the Brooklyn Bridge walk toward the scene of the attack of the World Trade Center. NYC. 9/11/2001

Class time: Tuesdays 11:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Location: VAC 247

Professor Sarah Bassnett  
Email – [sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca](mailto:sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca)  
Office hours – Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm and by appointment in VAC 219

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar explores the role of photography in social change and social justice. We will examine the work of photographers who have used their cameras to document social issues and to advocate for change. We will also explore the role of photography in the construction of social identity and in the representation of social groups. The seminar will be held in a seminar room at Western University. The seminar is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate photographs using appropriate terminology.
  - Conduct research using library resources, such as books and journal articles in databases, and use the sources effectively in a research essay.
  - Articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments.
  - Apply knowledge of issues and debates in photography history and theory to develop their own views, and articulate their ideas clearly in oral and written
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## RESEARCH PROJECT

Proposal & annotated bibliography 10% / presentation 10% / research paper 35%

Your research essay should focus on a series of photographs that relate to a conflict or social movement. You may choose to delve deeper into one of the topics we've discussed in class, although you should select a different set of photographs than the ones we have looked at. Alternatively, you are free to investigate issues that we haven't considered in class but that relate to the themes of the course.

Proposal and annotated bibliography: Your proposal should include a brief (approximately 300-word) outline identifying the issue and the selection of photographs you will write about, along with an annotated bibliography of at least six published sources you expect to use for your research. Your bibliography should include journal articles as well as books. (Relevant web sites can be used, but they should be in addition to six published sources).

Presentations

responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances. All course work must be submitted by the last day of classes.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work for the course MUST be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited. If you have doubts about how and when to cite sources, consult the Chicago Manual of Style guide on OWL in the Resources section, or talk to me before the assignment due date. All course work must be completed specifically for this course. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offences and they will be dealt with strictly. Submitting the same work for credit in more than one course is considered cheating. Plagiarism includes:

1. Quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, including all electronic sources, without acknowledgement;
2. Adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, or supporting evidence without acknowledgement;
3. Submitting someone else's work, in any form, without acknowledgement;
4. Knowingly representing as one's own an idea of another.

For information concerning Western's Plagiarism and Academic Offences (Scholastic Offences) policies see:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Pre&ArchiveID=.](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Pre&ArchiveID=)

All assignments may be subject to review through plagiarism detection software. The University of Western Ontario currently uses Turnitin.com for this purpose. Turnitin is an anti-plagiarism tool that screens assignments against a database of the Internet, e-journals, e-books, and a range of other scanned material, including other assignments for this course. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

### CITATION STYLE

The Chicago Manual of Style, Humanities format, is the standard style for art history. Use this style to cite your sources for your research paper and other assignments. Please refer to the guide in OWL and the Library website for examples: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>.

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### POLICIES & CONDUCT

Attendance: You are expected to attend and participate in every class. In particular, it is essential that you come prepared to discuss the readings. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a class mate.

- Under Western's regulations, if a student misses 15% of their classes, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, they can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations and/or critiques.
- If a student is consistently absent from a portion of class, they will be considered as exceeding the 15% cut off and can be similarly debarred.



## OWL

We will be using OWL to supplement the in-class portion of the course. I will post slides from class as pdf files for your review, and the syllabus and a range of other resources will also be available. Also, all assignments will be submitted through OWL. Go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal> to access OWL. Use your Western user name and password to sign on. Please be sure to check your browser and make sure everything is working at the beginning of the course. See the ITS technical assistance info on the above mentioned web site, and contact ITS for additional technical assistance. The ITS Support number is (519) 661-3800.

## STUDENT SERVICES

There are many organizations and offices on campus designed to assist students with the challenges of university. Please see the web site for a description of the full array of services:

<http://studentexperience.uwo.ca/>. Learning Skills Services, for example, offers one-on-one assistance with academic issues. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/> for details.

## WRITING SUPPORT CENTRE 4100 WSSB

The Writing Support Centre is part of the Effective Writing Program at Western and is open to all registered students. It offers instruction on all aspects of writing and is not merely for students who have difficulty with writing. Most effective are the one-on-one tutoring sessions, where you can work with a tutor on course assignments. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> for details.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health support <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The University of Western Ontario  
Visual Arts Department

**POLICIES**

**Student Conduct:**

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university





The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)

The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.