



**Western University
Department of Visual Arts
Digital Photography
VAS2246b
NCB-120D/135
Monday 14:30-17:30, and Wednesday, 14:30-17:30**

**Professor: Kelly Wood
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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-14:00 or by appointment
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Digital Photography

“the image is just an empty word” ; “the image is no longer a representation, it is pure information”; “This is the infographic age”–Paul Virilio (1987)

This course is a survey of various technical and artistic approaches to digital photography in contemporary artistic practice. This class will be organized around various technical demonstrations and tutorials of digital photographic techniques and practices

Introductory visual presentations and lectures will be offered in this class. Students will engage in a critical discourse on the subject of digital photography in art, and will be expected to draw on this discourse in their discussion during critiques of their own assignments. Students of this course will be required to respond to a reading assignment in a reading report and/or summary. This course will also involve the production of a number of photographic projects that will expand and practically inform the theoretical discussions based in the student presentations.

Students are expected to demonstrate an attitude of respectful criticality and show active engagement at all times and contribute to the creation of collegial and productive learning environment. It is recommended that the student read the “Critique Strategies document posted on OWL resources important docs> critique_strategies.pdf).

The Use of cell-phones, text messaging and/or social media sites during class time will not be tolerated. Focused engagement with the content of the course will be encouraged and appreciated.

Note:

An aim of this course is to expose the student to a very broad range of photographic art. Some of the most canonical or universally esteemed works depict what is nowadays called ‘mature subject matter.’ Be forewarned that a small percentage of the visual material students will be expected to view is of an explicit nature, containing for example, scenes or depictions of sexual and/or violent acts. Students must accept that by taking this course they have consented to viewing such material. If this poses a problem for a student, for whatever reason, it must be BROUGHT TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Current charges for digital printing with the Visual Arts Epson digital printer is approximately \$\$ per SQUARE FOOT. We have 44" wide roll of paper with lustre and matte finish. The large-format printer is reserved for Graduate use, however, some exceptions can be made if negotiated in advance. Cheaper, and faster, printing for small format prints can be obtained from: Imprint at UCC; Forest City Image Works, Kinko's, Blacks, Mercury Printers, and even Walmart.

Learning Outcomes:

Students of this class will gain the ability to use a basic range of established techniques in the field of digital photography. Students will acquire a general knowledge and understanding of many key concepts, methodologies, and theoretical approaches in digital photography. While engaging in creative activity in the primary area of study, students will foster, where appropriate, an ability to gather, review, evaluate and interpret information relevant to digital photography. Students will gain transferable skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and/or other activities.

Course Evaluation:

The last day to drop this course without academic penalty is March 7th, 2016. All assignments must be handed in by the last day of class.

At the end of the course, all work must be removed from lockers and workspaces. The department cannot guarantee the security of any work or materials left unattended after April 23rd.

Academic requirements:

Over the course of this class, 4 formal photographic projects will be assigned. These projects will generally be due three weeks after assignment and consist of a presentation of your completed study in the form of digital photo prints.

A reading report and/or summary will be assigned in class. In addition, short studio projects will be handed in to the instructor at the end of some specific tutorials.

Academic Honesty:

All course work must be entirely your own. All sources that you use for your assignments must be accurately cited

Visual Arts Studio Grading Rubric

90-100 (Outstanding, A+) - The **studio work** shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated analysis and synthesis involving complex theoretical and conceptual thinking are demonstrated. Mastery of complex ideas is immediately evident. The studio work has originality, clarity and ambition. The project is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is exemplary.

80-89 (Excellent, A) - The **studio work** shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. The work is clearly focused and intelligently presented. Mastery of complex ideas is demonstrated. The studio work has clarity and ambition. The quality of the studio production immediately engages the viewer. The studio work has been sufficiently developed and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are compelling. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is impressive.

75-79 (Very Good, B+) - The **studio work** shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. It demonstrates a clear awareness of the parameters of the assignment and a very good attempt to respond creatively to them. The work demonstrates reasonable depth and/or breadth and engages in a production that is appropriate to the level of the course. The quality of studio work engages the viewer and demonstrates above-average mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is very good.

70-74 (Good, B) - The **studio work** shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. It shows a good attempt to respond to assignment parameters. The work demonstrates some depth and/or breadth, making references to appropriate course material/art context. The studio production engages the viewer and demonstrates a sufficient mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is satisfactory.

60-69 (Competent, C) - The **studio work** demonstrates adequate engagement with the project. It shows an attempt to respond to assignment parameters but does so at a very basic level that lacks creativity. Engagement with studio production demonstrates basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is competent.

50-59 (Marginal, D) - The **studio work** shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The studio work waivers in its attempt to respond to assignment parameters and tends to be simplistic. Engagement with studio production demonstrates less than a basic mastery of techniques. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is less than satisfactory.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F) - The **studio work** demonstrates a failure to comprehend/engage the topic. The studio work is incomplete and lacks redeeming creative merit. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Background preparation and research, engagement with process and outcome of the studio production is unacceptable.

**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