

Western University, Department of Visual Arts  
**Photography and Collaboration**  
AH 4650F Fall 2021

Class time: Mondays, 11:30 - 2:30  
Location: VAC 247

Instructor: Bruno Sinder  
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Office Hours: By appointment in VAC 240

### **Course Description**

This seminar takes a thematic approach to issues and debates concerning collaboration and photography. Throughout the course, we discuss ideas by key theorists, look at projects or groups of photographs from artists and vernacular sources and tackle the social and economic ramifications of contemporary photography practices, navigating topics from social media to labour relations in dialogical art projects. We take an extended approach to photography, discussing not only images themselves, but also the contexts of production, circulation, and consumption of photographs. This seminar introduces students to key debates in photography studies and prepares and supports them in the creation and execution of their own research project in the field.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

- Understand and discuss different understandings of authorship and collaboration in art;
- Summarize and comment on scholarly articles and artistic projects in the field, both in writing and orally;
- Plan and develop a small scale photography project while articulating how it relates to scholarly writings in the field;
- Conduct research using library resources, such as books and journal articles in databases, and use the sources effectively to support your analysis of selected photography projects.

## Course Requirements

*All required readings, as well as any optional supplementary material, are available on OWL in the resources folder.*

You are responsible for material covered in the lectures and for the readings. You are expected to have reviewed the materials in preparation for the day they are listed. Attendance and participation in all classes is mandatory. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from a classmate.

## Assignments

- Attendance and Participation - 10% (weekly)

Attendance and participation in class will be monitored and make up 10% of your grade. As this is a discussion-based semi on the assigned materials. Arriving late to class, leaving early, not completing the required readings, and not participating in discussions and activities will significantly reduce your participation mark.

- Weekly Reading Responses - 10% (weekly - due each Sunday at 11:59pm on OWL)

For each week with an assigned reading, write a brief (100-300 word) response on the OWL forum for that week. The responses should comment on the assigned material rather than simply summarizing it. Highlighting points of confusion, articulating questions, voicing disagreements or commenting on specific passages are all valid and welcome responses. This assignment is meant to further your interaction with the assigned material and provide a base for our in-class discussions, so it must be

- Creative Project Presentation - 15% (November 1)

A short presentation (approximately 10 minutes) on your proposed or in-development creative project. Students are *not* expected to have completed the project at this stage, but should have an idea and a rough plan for how the idea will be executed. The presentation is an opportunity to discuss ideas and methods and work through expected or encountered problems as a group.

- Creative Project - 20% (November 15)

Students will develop a creative project that reflects on and discusses the different roles collaboration can play in photographic production, circulation, and consumption. The outcome of the project could take many forms, such as a photography-based social media profile or a collection of images. By November 15th, students should submit on OWL both the images produced (or a link, if online) and a 200-400 word written document. This accompanying text should briefly describe the project and relate it to materials and topics discussed in class. The written document and the visual outcome are worth 10% each, adding up to 20%.

This assignment can be completed in pairs, if students so desire and can collaborate safely and in accordance with health regulations and recommendations at the time. The assignment will be further explained and discussed in class on October 18th.

- Research Presentation - 20% (December 7)

For your research presentation (15-

## Late Policies

**Prerequisites**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be r

- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;
- g. Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed

**Student Conduct:**

All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students shall show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large. [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf)

**Normal Building Access (September 1st to April 30th)**

**Academic Sanctions:**

In instances of non-payment of prescribed tuition and other fees, the University shall seal the academic record.

When an academic record is sealed, the student will not be able to: a) view grades; b) register in future courses; c) receive transcripts or a degree diploma; d) obtain admission or readmission.

