

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311 - Lecture 03
Topics in Art
“Visual Research Methods”
Fall 2014
Lecture: T 14:00-16:45; AB 628

Instructor: Dona Schwartz
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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-13:45

Course Description

Visual Research Methods introduces students to the practice of using photographic image making to explore questions about social life and culture. Students conceptualize, research, plan and initiate an in-depth photographic project.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

N.A.

Objectives of the Course

Students enrolled in Visual Research Methods will tackle a series of intellectual challenges fundamental to producing meaningful and engaging photographic projects:

- Formulating an interesting and compelling project idea
- Conceptualizing the parameters of the project
- Building a knowledge-base through relevant research
- Identifying an appropriate visual, photographic approach for exploration and presentation
- Developing a plan of action for producing the project

Once a project plan has been developed, students will do preliminary photographic work to pre-test and make any necessary adjustments to the project plan as envisioned.

At the conclusion of the course students will have produced a viable, written project proposal and an initial series of photographic images. For students who choose to continue, work on the proposed project will be fully implemented in ART 465, Advanced Visual Research, offered in Winter 2015.

Textbooks and Readings

Readings in support of project work will be assigned.

Assignments and Evaluation

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

DUE SEPT 23	Shooting assignment: Framing	10%
DUE SEPT 30	In-class Presentation of an Exemplary Photographer's Work	10%
DUE OCT 21	First Draft of the Project Proposal	15%
DUE OCT 28	Shooting assignment: Working the Subject	10%
DUE NOV 18	Preliminary Project Photographs	20%
DUE DEC 2	Final Written Project Proposal	25%
DUE ALWAYS	Class Participation and attendance	10%

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. Please hand in your assignments directly to your instructor. If this is not possible, you can use the drop box outside of AB 608. Assignments that are put into the drop box will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Students must submit all assignments to successfully complete this course.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

Late Assignment Policy

Assignments will be graded down by one-third of a letter grade each day they are late.

Additional Information

Students must have a digital SLR camera in order to complete course assignments. Students will need to store image files: an external hard drive is recommended for archiving/backing up work completed during the term.

Approved optional &/or mandatory supplementary fees

N/A

Course Activities

In addition to lectures, course activities include oral presentations and critiques of student work. Producing a successful project proposal will require extensive fieldwork—time

devoted to exploring potential shooting sites, getting to know the environment, making contacts with potential photographic subjects, establishing rapport with people and building their trust. Be prepared to spend the time necessary to produce a clearly conceptualized project proposal with a solid foundation so that you can successfully carry out the ideas you have proposed.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

- September 9** Introduction to the course
- September 16** Coming up with ideas and conceptualizing a project
Review of exemplary photographic work
Brainstorming ideas
READ *Research Methods: The Basics*
Walliman, Nicholas, pp. 7-14; 29-41; 52-62
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/reader.action?ppg=22&docID=10447676&tm=1409851892789>
- September 23** Framing assignment due
- September 30** Presentations of photographers' work
- October 7** Presentations of photographers' work
- October 14** Summing up the presentations
Proposal check-in
READ "Arts-Informed Research"
Ardra L. Cole & J. Gary Knowles
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/10.4135/9781452226545.n5>
Print pages: 55-72
- October 21** Proposal first draft due; presentation and discussion
- October 28** Working the Subject assignment due
- November 4** Reports from the field. Issues, ideas, hurdles.
- November 18** Preliminary project photographs due
CRITIQUE
- November 25** Preliminary project photographs due
CRITIQUE
- December 2** Presentation of proposals
Final written proposal due

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grade	G.P.A.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	

75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the
55-59	C-	1.7	
53-54	D+	1.3	
50-52	D	1.0	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
0-49	F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Studio Procedures

The creation of art can be a dirty process and a studio is only workable if everyone cooperates in keeping it clean. Out of respect and consideration for your classmates and other users of the space, it is expected that everyone will participate in keeping the studio clean and tidy.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

All electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, etc.) must be turned off during class.

Academic Accommodation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Academic Standing

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html>

Deferral of Exams/Term work

It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examination(s) for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with Enrolment Services if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines.

For more information go to http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final

F.O.I.P.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Writing/Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and

possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or Writing Support Services (at the Student Success Centre) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support> or <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Student Misconduct

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Student Union and Student Ombudsman

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Lockers

The Art Building lockers are administered through the Student's Union's used bookstore, Bound and Copied. Lockers are rented on a first come, first served basis. Due to the shortage of lockers, and the high demand, students cannot hold more than one locker at a time. All of the details on renting a locker and your responsibilities can be found on the [Locker Rental Agreement](#).

Lockers for all sessions can be rented through my.ucalgary.ca. Once you're in the Student Centre, click on Other Academic Services and choose Locker Reservation. Lockers must be vacated by the end of term.

For more information go to <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

Models

N/A

Portfolios and Assignments

The Department of Art will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen portfolios or course work given to instructors for grading, or for work posted on bulletin boards in the art building.

Note - All unclaimed work will be disposed.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e., surveys, interviews or observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

Campus Security/Safewalk

Call 220-5333 anytime. Help phones are located throughout campus, parking lots and elevators; they connect directly to Campus Security - in case of emergency, press the red button.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

Emergency Evacuation

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Stop by SS110, call us at 220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 220-5881 or visit them on the 2nd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.