

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART 361) – Lecture 01
Visual Research Methods
Fall 2016
M 12:00 – 14:45, AB 617

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Course Description

Students utilize arts-based research methods to formulate and develop an independent project proposal. In most terms projects will be carried out in digital photography.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

6 units in courses labelled Art at the 300 level.

Objectives of the Course

Students enrolled in Visual Research Methods will be engaged with a series of challenges fundamental to producing meaningful and engaging photographic projects. Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to

- Formulate an interesting and compelling project idea.
- Conceptualize the parameters of a do-able project.
- Build a knowledge-base through relevant research.
- Experiment and determine an appropriate photographic approach.
- Develop a plan of action for producing the project.
- Plan appropriate methods for distributing the finished work.
- Write a cogent, focused proposal for creative research.

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 initially envisioned. At the conclusion of the course students will have produced a viable, written project proposal and an initial series of photographic images.

Textbooks and Readings

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT:

Behind the Image: Research in Photography. Anna Fox and Natasha Caruana, AVA Publishing, 2012.

Additional readings are listed on the class schedule.

Assignments and Evaluation

All assignments must be submitted on time and in electronic format. File formats and all other submission details for each assignment will be specified in class. Evaluative criteria for each graded assignment will be clearly outlined when the assignment is given.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

CLASS PARTICIPATION (participation in class discussions and reviews)	10 pts
DUE SEPT 26 Shooting assignment: Framing	10 pts
DUE OCT 3 Project Abstract (2 pages double-spaced, or approx. 500 words)	10 pts
DUE OCT 17 Shooting assignment: Working the Subject	10 pts
DUE OCT 24 Research Context (minimum 3 pages double-spaced or approx. 750 words)	10 pts
DUE NOV 2 First Draft of the Project Proposal (minimum 6 pages double-spaced or approx. 1,500 words)	10 pts
DUE NOV 28 Preliminary Project Photographs	20 pts
DUE DEC 5 Final Written Project Proposal (minimum 10 pages double-spaced or approx. 2,500 words)	20 pts

Students must submit all class assignments in order to pass the course as a whole.

Writing

Proposal writing is a major component of this course. Students will receive in-class feedback on their proposal ideas and students are welcome to meet with the professor during office hours to discuss ideas and review early drafts. The quality of writing will be considered in the grading of written assignments. Students' writing must be clear, focused, grammatical and free of spelling errors. *Writing support is available at the Student Success Centre, https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing_support.*

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam – NO

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of or any relevant documentation regarding 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.

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 access to a digital SLR camera in order to complete course assignments. Students will need to store image files: an external hard drive or other storage solution is required for archiving/backing up work completed during the term.

Course Activities

In addition to lectures, course activities include oral presentations and critiques of student work. Producing a successful project proposal will require background research and 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.

Grading Method/Grading Scale:

Percentage	Grad	G.P.V.	Grade Definition
96-100	A+	4.0	Outstanding
90-95	A	4.0	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
85-89	A-	3.7	
80-84	B+	3.3	
75-79	B	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally
70-74	B-	2.7	
65-69	C+	2.3	
60-64	C	2.0	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.
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 class mates 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

Lap tops may not be used during class without documented need for special accommodation. Use of cell phones and any electronic devices for personal messaging during class time is prohibited. Students violating this policy will be asked to leave class so that other students' learning environment is not compromised.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (S.A.S.); S.A.S. will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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 about deferring a final exam go to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

For more information about the deferral term work go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15.pdf

F.O.I.P.

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

Writing/Plagiarism

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

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

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. Visual art projects submitted for course credit must be produced by the student specifically for this class. Students must not submit projects if credit has or will be provided for it in another class. This includes re-worked assignments from previous or concurrent courses, unless permission is provided in writing by the instructor. Additionally, the student is asked to be mindful of using visual sources from the internet, ensuring that that material is not derived from any on-line or other available source, and that appropriate copyright permission is granted, when required.

For more information go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Student Misconduct

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

Student Union

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

Student Ombudsman

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 at

https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/locker_rental_agreement_2010.pdf

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/>

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 of.

Note - Studio spaces, bulletin boards and display areas need to be cleared 2 weeks after the last day of classes.

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/pubs/calendar/current/e-5.html>

or

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/chreb>

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 Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Stop by SS102, call us at 220-3580 or email us at ascarts@ucalgary.ca or 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 3rd 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.