

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF ART

COURSE OUTLINE

Art (ART) 311 – Lecture 01
Topics in Art: Visual Research Methods
Fall 2015

Lecture: M 12:00-2:45; AB 672

Instructor: Dona Schwartz
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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00

Course Description

Visual Research Methods introduces students to the practice of creative research through the use of photography. Students conceptualize, research, plan and initiate in-depth photographic projects that explore questions about social life and culture.

Prerequisites &/or Co-requisites

No prerequisites.

Course Outcomes

Students enrolled in Visual Research Methods will tackle 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 doable project
- Build a knowledge-base through relevant research
- Identify an appropriate visual, photographic approach for exploration and presentation
- Develop a plan of action for producing the project
- 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 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, Selected Topics in Studio Research: Advanced Visual Research, offered in Winter 2016.

Textbooks and Readings

Readings in support of project work will be assigned.

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.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

DUE SEPT 28	Shooting assignment: Framing	10%
DUE OCT 19	Shooting assignment: Working the Subject	10%
	In-class Presentation: Foregrounding the Background (Approx. the last 2 weeks of October)	10%
DUE NOV 2	First Draft of the Project Proposal (minimum 6 pages double spaced or approx. 1,500 words)	20%
DUE NOV 23	Preliminary Project Photographs	25%
DUE DEC 7	Final Written Project Proposal (minimum 10 pages double spaced or approx. 2,500 words)	25%

Students must submit all class assignments in order to pass the course as a whole.
There is no Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam.

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.

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

Late Assignment Policy

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

Additional Information

Art 336 or equivalent is recommended.

Students must have 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 recommended 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 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	Grade	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 complete.
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

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. 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/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

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](#).

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

In this class students may be expected to draw from nude models. A student electing not to do so must notify the instructors IN WRITING of his/her concerns.

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/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 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.