

Western University
Department of Visual Arts
SA3653-2019/20
Advanced Photo
VAC 134/139
Wednesdays 11:30-14:30

Professor: Kelly Wood
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 15:00-16:30 or by appointment
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Advanced Photography (blended with online learning through OWL)

This course is a survey and study of various contemporary approaches to photographic history and practice. The class will be organized around various lectures, technical demonstrations, workshops and studio tutorials. This class will offer tutorials and demonstrations of digital photographic techniques using small format photography. Introductory lectures and historical studies will be organized thematically. Students will benefit from exposure to a diverse, and wide-ranging, field of approaches to photography and are presented with productive evaluative modes of interpretation.

This course will primarily involve the production of a number of photographic projects that will expand, and practically inform, the theoretical discussions based in the thematic presentations. Students of this course will be required to make a formal presentation of a selected topic, and, write a review and/or response to a reading assignment.

This course will also include online tutorials in digital photography post-production through OWL. Video tutorials will be posted in the class portal. The online platform will allow students enrolled in this course to work through a digital process at their own pace, and, under their own control. Specific dates for online learning tutorials are listed in your course schedule posted to OWL at the commencement of the class.

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 ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR IMMEDIATELY (DURING THE FIRST CLASS).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to independently formulate and realize visual ideas with appropriate technical competence in digital image capture and digital post-production photography. The student will benefit from an introduction to small-format camera techniques, studio practices and basic to advanced digital photography editing techniques. The student will also learn to critically assess and discuss their own work, and the work of their peers, with reference to recent professional practices and theoretical models of photography-based art making presented and discussed in class.

Learning Outcomes:

Successful students of this class will gain the ability to use a basic range of established techniques in the field of contemporary digital photography. Students will acquire a general knowledge and understanding of many key concepts, methodologies, and theoretical approaches in contemporary art 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 contemporary photography. Students will gain transferable photographic skills necessary for further study, employment, community involvement and/or other activities.