This course combines both the theoretical and hands-on approach to allow students to explore the technical applications and creative visual expression of the photographic medium. It will analyse the fundamentals of photography from the historical, cultural, aesthetic and technological perspectives. It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words;” as such, the role of Photography could be defined as a dynamic representational system that uses media and art to produce and communicate meaning, just as we do when we use the spoken words of language.

More specifically, an historical overview of the art form and its technical development will be conducted: from ‘camera obscura’ to the contemporary digital forms, from photojournalism to various artistic expressions, from narrative photography to visual literacy. From this survey, students will develop analytical insights and a deeper understanding of the relationship of photography to the other arts and the effects of changing technology on the medium’s stylistic manifestations.

In particular, this course will cover digital photography, special effects, and digital imagery applications. To ensure that students be successful in their own personal and educational goals, they will be asked to create a digital portfolio on the Internet, as well as publishing selected photographic assignments of professional quality.

**Teaching/learning activities:**

Lectures, tutorials, guest speeches, workshops & online activities
**Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Analytical Ability:** to show a deeper understanding of the way aesthetic knowledge and value judgments impact photographic art.

2. **Creative Explorations:** to broaden the student’s horizon by making them knowledgeable about world-renowned photographers and artists; Students will get chance to meet some of them and asking questions. Above allows students to develop an individualized creative style and gain informed insights.

3. **Technological skills:** to acquire a sound and comprehensive understanding of current photographic technologies and production methods.

**Assessment:**
Class participation 30%
(Attendance, in class participation and assignment report)
Midterm analytical Paper: 30%
Final Project + Paper: 40%
Students are required to present photographs and term paper with a research topic of his/her own interests

**Sessions and Readings**

**Class1**  
Sep 6  
Introduction to Photomedia
History of Photography
The history of photography, camera invention
World’s first photos in 19th century

**Class 2**  
Sep 13  
Mid Autumn Festival Holiday
No school

**Class 3**  
Sep 20  
Journal Photography: Photography as documentary media
Journal Photography: Photography as documentary media
Nostalgia: Social role and functionality of early Photography
Wartime Photography


Class 4  Sep 27 Visual Comm Theories & Visual Metaphors (Part I)
--Composition and framing know-how
--Camera basics
--Lighting and visual semiotics
--Visual Guidelines/analysis

Readings:
http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.81.5178&rep=rep1&type=pdf

Class 5  Oct 4 Aesthetic Principles & Visual Metaphors (Part II)
--Composition and framing know-how
--Camera basics
--Lighting and visual semiotics
--Visual Guidelines/analysis

**Assignment 1: Choose/Take 2 photos to give analysis in aesthetical principles and metaphors (in prints)


Class 6  Oct 11 Cinematic Photography
Narratives: Frames, Sequences and Messages
Interrelationship between Photography and Cinema
Expression with a theme/message decoding
- Art appreciation: Introduction to local and worldwide photographers

Reading: Mary Ann Diane (2011) The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency. P 130-143, the Archive.
Class 7  Oct 18 Creative Methods in Commercial Media
Decoding and Encoding the Metaphors
Photograph as Media in Mass Communication
Advertising, Identity and Social Media

* Announce Mid-Term Project: Please download the mid-term description document for details

Class 8  Oct 25 Modern Art Movement and Photography
Photography as visual art
Photomontage
Postmodern Photography
Twentieth century Art movement and its impact on Photography.


Class 9  Nov 1  Post-effect Workshop I: Digital Imaging
Lab Workshop I: Adobe Photoshop and Image Retouch
Re-touch techniques and special effect
Classroom: Media Lab

Class 10  Nov 8 Post-effect Workshop II: Digital Imaging
Lab Workshop I: Adobe Photoshop and Image Retouch
Re-touch techniques and special effect
Classroom: Media Lab

Class 11  Nov 15  Portrait, Gender and Self
Representation of Gender in Photographs
Reconstruction of self image via visual medium.

Class 12 _ NOV 22 _ Landscape and Visual Diary
Outdoor Photography ((Field Trip to be decided)
B&W vs. Color photography
Composition and framing know-how
Landscape/Nature
Art appreciation: Introduction to local and worldwide photographers

Class 13 _ Nov 29 _ Course Review & Final project showcase I
Art appreciation: Introduction to local and worldwide photographers
Showcase your projects to the class!
Presentation/Conclusion/Critics

Class 14 _ Nov 30th _ Final project showcase II
Presentation/Conclusion/Critics

Readings
Photography: A Cultural History by Mary Warner Marien
Traveling Light: Photography, Travel and Visual Culture, Peter Osborne
Manchester University Press, 10 Jun, 2000


The Photographic Image in Digital Culture, Martin Lister, Routledge, 23 Sep, 2013
War and Photography: A Cultural History, Caroline Brothers, Psychology Press, Jan, 1997
The Art of Photography: An Approach to Personal Expression by Bruce Barnbaum
Street Photography: From Atget to Cartier-Bresson by Clive Scott
Photography: The Key Concepts by David Bate

Honesty in Academic Work: A Guide For Students and Teachers
The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students, and adopts a policy of **zero tolerance** on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. Students must submit their assignments via the Webpage of the Chinese University Plagiarism Identification Engine (CUPIDE) [http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student](http://cupide.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/student).

Although cases of cheating or plagiarism are rare at the University, everyone should make himself/herself familiar with the content of this website and thereby help avoid any practice that would not be acceptable.

Section 1  **What is plagiarism**  [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p01.htm]

Section 2  **Proper use of source material**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p02.htm]

Section 3  **Citation styles**  [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p03.htm]

Section 4  **Plagiarism and copyright violation**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p04.htm]

Section 5  **CUHK regulations on honesty in academic work**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p05.htm]

Section 6  **CUHK disciplinary guidelines and procedures**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p06.htm]

Section 7  **Guide for teachers and departments**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p07.htm]

Section 8  **Recommended material to be included in course outlines**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p08.htm]

Section 9  **Recommended declaration to be included in every assignment handed in**

[http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/p09.htm]

Section 10  **Electronic submission of term papers**