

College of Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts



ARTS 340 Syllabus

Section 500 (59571)
History of the Photographic Image
Spring 2026 - College Station

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Details

Kris Belden-Adams

Email: kbelden-adams@tamu.edu

Office Location: 217 LAAH

Phone: 979-458-7836

Office Hours

11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. MWF

Preferred Contact Method

Email

Biography

Dr. Kris Belden-Adams is the author of *Photography, Temporality, Modernity: Time Warped* (2019), and *Photography, 'Aristogenics,' Eugenics: Picturing Privilege* (2020).

Catalog Description

History of the Photographic Image. (3-0). Credit 3. History of photography; social, cultural, political, scientific and artistic contexts; important photographic themes and photographers. Prerequisite: ARTS 149, ARTS 150, ARTS 349, ARCH 249, ARCH 250, or ARCH 350.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite/Corequisite(s): ARTS 149, ARTS 150, ARTS 349, ARCH 249, ARCH 250, or ARCH 350.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the learner will gain these skills:

- **Critical thinking** (including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information)
Communication (including effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication)
- **Teamwork** (including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal)
- **Professionalism** (cultivate professional skills critical in the workplace, including: apt preparation, punctuality, meeting deadlines, budgeting time/planning/managing workflow, academic integrity, etc.).

Students will gain the following familiarity with the history of photographic media after completing the course:

- **Knowledge:** Identify the various styles, content, techniques, evolving media, and contexts of the history of photographic media.
- **Contextual Comprehension:** Explain how works of art relate to and reflect upon their political, social, religious, and economic trends specific to their periods and geographical settings.
- **Analysis:** Recognize and critically analyze styles and practices common among global photographic practices, and compare and contrast representative works from different phases of history.
- **Application:** Interpret subject matter, techniques, and materials in which works of photography were created. Appreciate the medium's relation to others, such as

cinema and generative Artificial Intelligence. Gain an awareness of how photography has helped mediate and shape our experiences of the world.

- **Synthesis:** Appraise the historical significance of works of photographic media, writings about the variable functions and tendencies of the medium, as well as the construction of the history of photographic media and its blind spots.
- **Critical Thinking:** Recognize diverse critical thinking, opinions, and practices, and consider different points of view in the interpretation of photographic media.

Special Course Designation

None

Textbook and/or Resource Materials



This material is Required

Photography: A Cultural History

ISBN: 9781529420975

Authors: Mary Warner Marien

Publisher: Laurence King Publishing

Publication Date: 2021-06-24

Edition: 5th

URL for Resource: <http://proxy.library.tamu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&scope=site&db=nlebk&db=nlabk&AN=3559308>

Notes:

Thanks to the support of Texas A&M University Libraries, you can access the following course materials for free!

Photography Fifth Edition: A Cultural History –

Access URL: <http://proxy.library.tamu.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?>

Grading Policy

Graded Components:

Exam One 20%

Exam Two 20%

Final Exam 25%

Weekly Perusall Annotations of Readings (weighted equally) 20%

Participation in class discussions 15%

Grade Scale:

A = 90–100

B = 80–89.99999

C = 70–79.99999

D = 60–69.99999

F = 0–59.99999

***Note: Final grades near a letter-grade threshold will not be bumped up. Take advantage of extra credit opportunities.

Late Work Policy

Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempt from the late work policy ([Student Rule 7](#)).

Course Schedule

1/12, 1/14/ 1/16

Syllabus, Introductions / Origin of Photography

Reading: Ch. 1; de la Roche (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 1/16)

1/19 – NO CLASSES: MLK Day

1/21, 1/23

The Origins of Photography / Camera Obscura.

Readings: Ch. 2; Wedgwood and Davy (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 1/23); Schaaf
(Perusall– Due @ 9
am 1/23)

1/26, 1/28, 1/30

Photography's Founding Fathers (and a Mother!) - 1830s-40s

Today's discussion centers on the multiple simultaneous inventors of photography, and
their
differing techniques. **Readings:** Ch. 1

2/2, 2/4, 2/6

Photography's Founding Fathers (+ a Mother!) - 1830s-40s – Cont.

Readings: da Vinci (Perusall– Due @ 9 am 2/6); “The First News Accounts of the
Daguerreotype”
(Perusall– Due @ 9 am 2/6); + Recipe, “The Photographer’s Cheesecake” (for 2/6)

2/9, 2/11

Photography and Science

Reading: Ch. 2

2/13

Readings & Discussion Session: “Truthiness” and Photography

Readings to be completed in preparation IN Perusall @ 9 am 2/13, FOR this session:

1. Lansdown, “Photographing Madness” (2011)
2. Belden-Adams, “Harvard’s ‘Class’ Pictures” (2016)

2/16 - **Exam One**

2/18, 2/20 – No class, KBA speaks @CAA Conference, Chicago!

2/23, 2/25, 2/27

Portraiture (19th Century)

Readings: (1) Ch. 3.; (2) Schwartz, (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 2/27); (3) Belden-Adams, “Locating the Selfie...” (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 2/27)

3/2, 3/4

Recording Events, War

Readings: Ch. 4.; Library of Congress, “Case of the Moved Body” (Perusall – due @9 am 3/4)

3/6

Issues of Power (19th Century)

Reading: Ch. 5; Berger, “Chapter Three” (*Ways of Seeing*) (Perusall)

3/9, 3/11, 3/13 – Spring Break, No Classes!

3/16, 3/18

Pictorialism

Reading: Emerson, “Photography, A Pictorial Art” (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 3/18)

3/20

Exam Two

3/23, 3/25

“Straight Photography” / Photography & the Modern City

Readings: Chs. 7-8; Corwin, “Picturing Efficiency” (Perusall – Due @ 9 am 3/25)

3/27

A New Vision, 1918-1945 (Revolutions in Russia, Dada, Surrealism, Germany)

Reading: Ch. 8

3/30, 4/1

A New Vision, 1918-1945, Cont.

Reading: Jones, “Reading Sander’s Archive” (Perusall – Due @ 9 am on 4/1)

4/3 – Reading Day, Classes do not meet

4/8, 4/10 – KBA presents @ PCAACA, Atlanta – Class does not meet; INSTEAD: View the video

In Canvas for **Revolutions in America (F.S.A.) / The Family of Man** and complete the textbook

Readings: Ch. 9-10

4/13, 4/15

AbEx/Street Photography / America's Social Landscape – the 1960s

Readings: Ch. 10, cont., Ch. 11.; Baier, "Visions of Fascination and Despair..." (Perusall, due @ 9

am 4/15)

4/17 - **Convergencies, 1975-Today**

Readings: Begin Part Six (p. 392-end)

4/20, 4/22

Convergencies, 1975-Today

4/24 - **Contemporary Dialogues / "Post-Photography" & the Digital/"Post-Digital"**

Age Readings: Finish Part Six (p. 392-end); Phelan (Perusall, due @ 9 am)

4/27

Contemporary "Photographies"

Readings Due @ 9 am: Ch. 14; Lovejoy (Perusall); Batchen (Perusall)

5/1 @ 8 am – Final Exam!

Technology Support

Technology Services (IT) - Main Campus

Hours: 24/7

Phone: (979) 845-8300

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Call/Chat/Email/visit: <https://it.tamu.edu/help>

Canvas LMS Technical Support

Hours: 24/7/365

Phone: (877) 354-4821

Email: support@instructure.com

Support is available by clicking the Help button at the far left in the Canvas global navigation menu.

Canvas Resources are also linked on the home page of every Canvas course.

University Policies

This section outlines the university-level policies that must be included in each course syllabus. The TAMU Faculty Advisory Council established the wording of these policies.

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" (Section 20.1.2.3, [Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

University Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Course Specific Attendance Policy

Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempt from the late work policy ([Student Rule 7](#)).

Late work (i.e., any deliverable submitted after the established deadline) **will not be accepted, because other collaborative work depends on its completion**. There are two exceptions to this rule:

1. Work delayed because of an excused absence is not considered late and will therefore be accepted. For policies surrounding absences, see: ([Student Rule 7](#)).
2. I reserve the right to grant very short extensions in exceptional circumstances, provided that students contact me before the assignment submission deadline. Such extensions will not be routine.

Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy ([Student Rule 7](#)).

Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. ([See Student Rule 24](#).)

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Texas A&M University is committed to providing safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and work environments for all members of the University community. The University provides equal opportunity to all employees, students, applicants for employment or admission, and the public, regardless of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions), religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status.

Texas A&M University will promptly, thoroughly, and fairly investigate and resolve all complaints of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), complicity, and related retaliation based on a protected class in accordance with [System Regulation 08.01.01](#), [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#), [Standard Administrative Procedure \(SAP\) 08.01.01.M1.01](#), and applicable federal and state laws. In accordance with Title IX and its implementing regulations, Texas A&M does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity, including admissions and employment.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jennifer M. Smith, TAMU Associate VP & Title IX Coordinator at YMCA Ste 108, College Station, TX 77843, 979-458-8407, or email civilrights@tamu.edu. For other reporting options, visit the [U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System](#) to locate the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Civil Rights, Free Speech, and Title IX Policies

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit discrimination and harassment based on an individual's race, color, sex, (including pregnancy and related conditions), religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristic. This includes forms of sex-based violence, such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, dating/domestic violence, and stalking.

Students can report discrimination/harassment, access supportive resources, or learn more about their options for resolving complaints on the [University's Civil Rights & Title IX webpage](#).

Students should be aware that all university employees (except medical or mental health providers) are mandatory reporters, which means that if they observe, experience or become aware of an incident that they reasonably believe to be discrimination/harassment alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student or employee at the time of the incident, the employee must report the incident to the university.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

To request academic accommodations, contact the designated ADA office based on your location:

- Texas A&M University, College of Nursing, College of Dentistry, Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy College Station, College of Medicine, School of Public Health, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, EnMed Program, Bush School in Washington DC, Mays Business School – CityCentre, TAMU Engineering Academies, Texas A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen and Texas A&M University at Galveston should contact Disability Resources at (979) 845-1637 or disability@tamu.edu.
- Texas A&M University School of Law should contact the Office of Student Affairs at (817) 212-4111 or law-disability@law.tamu.edu to request accommodations.

- Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy in Kingsville should contact the Disability Resource Center at Texas A&M University-Kingsville at (361) 593-3024 or drc.center@tamuk.edu to request accommodations.
- Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in Canyon should contact the Office of Student Accessibility at West Texas A&M University – Canyon at (806) 651-2335 or osa@wtamu.edu.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your approved accommodations, contact the office responsible for approving your accommodations or the Texas A&M ADA Coordinator Julie Kuder at ADA.Coordinator@tamu.edu or (979) 458-8407.

Pregnancy Accommodations

Texas A&M provides reasonable accommodations to students due to pregnancy and/or related conditions, such as childbirth, recovery, and lactation. Students should contact the University's [Pregnancy Coordinator](#) as soon as they become aware of the need for accommodation. Depending on the circumstances, accommodations could include extended time to complete assignments or exams, changes in course sequence, or modifications to the physical classroom environment.

Texas A&M will also allow a voluntary leave of absence, ensure the availability of lactation space, and maintain grievance procedures to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of sex discrimination. For information regarding pregnancy accommodations, email TIX.Pregnancy@tamu.edu.

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors influencing a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care practices by utilizing the resources and services available through [University Health Services](#). The [TELUS Health Student Support app](#) provides access to professional counseling in multiple languages anytime, anywhere by phone or chat, and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24-hour emergency support at 988 or 988lifeline.org.

Texas A&M College Station

Students needing a listening ear can contact University Health Services at 979.458.4584. Call 911 or visit your nearest emergency room if you are currently experiencing a life-threatening situation or if your safety is at risk. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) or at 988lifeline.org.

Statement on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings.

Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items can do so within howdy.tamu.edu using the Directory Information Withholding Form. The complete [FERPA Notice to Students](#) and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage.

Items that can never be identified as public information are a student's social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR, or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class.

Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees, honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location, and medical residence specialization.

Free Speech and Civil Discourse

Texas A&M recognizes that the pursuit of truth through open and robust discourse is critical to academic inquiry. However, as a community of scholars, the university has an aspirational expectation that such discourse will be conducted in accordance with Aggie Core Values. In this “marketplace of ideas,” we encourage civil dialogue creating an environment that allows individuals to express their ideas and to have their ideas challenged in respectful and responsible ways. Students can learn more about Freedom of Expression and Free Speech on the [University's website](#) about the [First Amendment](#).