

Summer 2023

Dear Students:

Welcome to *The History of Photography* on-line course. I hope that you will gain a much better appreciation for the medium after our eight weeks together.

It is important for each of you to remember that this course takes the traditional 15 week semester and reduces it to 8 weeks. Given the fact that we start this course soon after the end of the Spring semester, your break from traditional class work will be short!

While the material in this course is not difficult to comprehend, in order to successfully complete *The History of Photography*, you will need to remember that it is impossible to slack off for a few days and then think that you can pick up and succeed.

With that said, we will be rapidly going through our textbook *Seizing the Light: A Social History of Photography*. It will be important for you to stay current with the all reading assignments, quizzes, tests, discussions and other assignments. As I mentioned before, this class requires constant participation. But, the end results will give each of you tools to take with you as you encounter photographic images during the rest of your life, and new ways of looking at visual images

This course is set up on Brightspace, our new digital education system! The summer course are the first classes to use Brightspace so there might be a learning curve for those who used iLearn for many years. The *Syllabus* link will give you a full layout of the course. There is a lot to accomplish in the class; you will have to organize your time effectively in order to complete the readings with enough time to reflect on questions that I pose to you. You will also be fully involved in our on-line discussions which you will do in small groups.

If I were in a face-to-face classroom setting, I would begin by introducing myself and asking all of you to do the same. Since we will be engaging with one another online, it is even more important that we identify ourselves to provide a character beyond our writing. When we start the course, I will have a **Discussion** set up where each of you will be required to introduce yourself. While I will give a more complete introduction of myself then, I will quickly give you some highlights now:

I have been an adjunct lecturer in the art history department at Marist for 28 years having taught a range of courses including *Art of the Western World*, *History of Modern Sculpture*, *Arts & Values* and *Museum Studies*. I have taught the classroom and online versions of *The History of Photography* or the past 23 years. I was actually the one who purposed this course be offered at Marist. While many colleges and universities offer history of photography courses today, when this class first started 23 years ago, it was quite a unique feature for the Art Department here at Marist. Today there are many history books to choose from; 23 years ago there was virtually nothing!

If you haven't gathered, my specialty is the history of photography and my major research interests include both 19th Century British female photographers and contemporary American photography (1960 - onwards). I have spent a good portion of my life at both the Victoria & Albert Museum Library and the British Museum Library (both in London) doing in-depth research. I have also spent a good amount of time at the Marist College branch campus in Florence, Italy conducting research at The British Institute which is based in this Renaissance city. This summer, after a few years hiatus due to covid, I will again be back at the British Institute in Florence and will be based at the Marist campus there.

We will use the following book that is available at the Marist College Bookstore or on-line at any one of the many booksellers one may encounter or you can get the digital version if you like:

*Seizing the Light: A Social History of Photography (Third Edition)**, by Robert Hirsch
McGraw Hill

ISBN: 978-1138944251 [paperback]

- **It is critical that you secure this book immediately so that you are ready to begin your reading on the first day of class.**

*** Also: Please note that if you are going away on holiday this summer, it is critical that you have internet access! I will not consider the excuse that you were at a place that did not have internet access as a reason why you could not complete an assignment. Remember, if you sign up for an on-line course, you are expected to have on-line access at all times!**

If you need to reach me before the class begins, you can e-mail at Marist at:
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I look forward to meeting you online! We will be hearing a lot from each other!

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