OBJECTIVES:

1. A historical perspective of photography from its origins to the present is taught. Key events, technical advances and personalities instrumental to the development of photography are emphasized. The students are expected to develop an understanding of these elements and how they effect us as photographers and as connoisseurs of the visual image.
2. The interconnection of historical events and photography are highlighted in order for the student to appreciate how photography has become integrated into our understanding of past events. Sometimes a single or a few photos can become our collective memory of a historical moment or a phase of history.
3. Artistic styles in both photography and the broader art world are emphasized to illustrate how photography and art often reflect each other. Photography influences art and art influences photography.
4. The ability to analyze and understand a photo from a different time period is stressed. It is important to understand the technical limitations, the materials used or the equipment used by the photographer during the creation of their work. In this way the student will be better able to appreciate and understand a photograph or a body of work in a historical context.
5. The student is expected to develop a vocabulary appropriate to historical photography and an ability to write about different styles of photography that have appeared over time.

PROCEDURES:

1. Lectures are the main method of instruction.
2. Readings primarily from the assigned text which is World History of Photography by Naomi Rosenblum. The student should follow the subject matter presented in class by reading the appropriate sections in the text. The subject will be made clear in each class lecture.
3. Additional information on a subject will sometimes be handed out to the class as photocopies.
4. Visual material such as other books, prints will be shown in class.
5. Videos on various photographers or historical periods are an integral part of the class presentation.
6. Many examples of vintage photographs such as Daquerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes, albumen prints, early photomechanical prints and so on will be brought to class for the student to see.
7. Photo equipment of historical interest will be shown the class.
8. Tests and quizzes are part of the learning and assessment process.
9. The students will complete two research papers. The focus of the first one will be on some form of photography in the 19th century and early 20th century. The second paper will be on some aspect of photography in the 20th century after WWI. A separate instruction sheet for the papers will be given in class.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance is important as most of the material presented during the lectures is visual. Missing a class will leave a gap in understanding or continuity. If a class is missed the student is responsible for notes and information that were given in class. If a student knows they can’t attend a certain day let the professor know. More than three absences can effect the student’s standing in the class.
2. Students are expected to keep up with the reading in the text. The readings will give the student depth and perspective which helps in class discussions and test results.
3. Class participation is encouraged. Comments, observations, questions and so one will help the student with the subject. Discussions and opinions are often sought out during the class.
4. Attention. The student is expected to pay attention that is no texting, no cell phones, no local discussions and preferably no sleeping are all part of normal classroom decorum.

GRADING

Grading will be based on the midterm and final which are worth 30% and 30%. The two papers are worth 15% and 15% the remainder of the grade will be from quizzes. As in all grading there is a subjective element so class participation, interest and effort will be viewed favorably. Extra credit work is also possible. This can be helpful to a student who would like to improve their grade. Such requests will be dealt with on an ad hoc basis.