PHOT 20: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SELF

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2026-10-15T15:45:38Z
   Marcy Wacker (wacker): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
2. 2026-10-15T16:05:35Z
   Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
3. 2026-10-21T19:03:56Z
   Rebekkah Mulholland (rebekkah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2026-10-22T00:35:37Z
   Matt Schmidtlein (schmidmc): Approved for ALS Dean

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Viewing: PHOT 20 : The Photographic Self

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Changes proposed by: Nick Shepard (218680229)

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Catalog Title:
The Photographic Self

Class Schedule Title:
The Photographic Self

Academic Group: (College)
ALS - Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)
Design

Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?
No

Catalog Year Effective:
Fall 2027 (2027/2028 Catalog)

Subject Area: (prefix)
PHOT - Photography

Catalog Number: (course number)
20

Course ID: (For administrative use only.)
202517

Units:
3

Is the ONLY purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?
No

In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?
Fall, Spring

Does this course require a room for its final exam?
No, final exam does not require a room (Last Class)

This course complies with the credit hour policy:
Yes

Justification for course proposal:
This proposal updates PHOT 20 and seeks designation as a General Education Area 3A (Arts) course, replacing its former Area E designation. It also restores course information not carried over during the implementation of CourseLeaf and updates the course description and learning outcomes to reflect current curriculum requirements. These changes do not substantially alter the course's established content or purpose.

Course Description: (Not to exceed 90 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)
Explores how photography has shaped the ways people see and express themselves from its beginnings in 1839 to the present. Considers self-portraits, personal photographs, and social media to examine how images influence identity, emotions, behavior, and relationships with others.

Are one or more field trips required with this course?
No

Fee Course?
No

Is this course designated as Service Learning?
No

Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?
No

Does this course require safety training?
No

Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?
No

Does this course have prerequisites?
No

Does this course have corequisites?
No

Graded:
Letter

Approval required for enrollment?
No Approval Required

Course Component(s) and Classification(s):
Lecture

Lecture Classification
CS#03 - Lecture Composition/Counseling/Case Study (K-factor=1 WTU per unit)

Lecture Units

3

Is this a paired course?

No

Is this course crosslisted?

No

Can this course be repeated for credit?

No

Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?

No

Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Analyze historical and contemporary lens-based images to explain how photography has shaped ideas of self and identity.	Quizzes Class discussions Journal responses
2	Compare modes of photographic self-representation in terms of the cultural norms, technologies, and visual conventions that influence their meaning.	Quizzes Class discussions Creative activity with written response
3	Create photographs and accompanying written reflections that communicate aspects of personal identity, lived experience, and an imagined future.	Creative project Presentations Written reflections
4	Critically examine personal experiences, values, behaviors, and goals by connecting them to course material and perspectives different from their own.	Journal Written reflections Class activities Presentations and discussions
5	Apply knowledge about identity and self-development to evaluate the personal, social, and ethical consequences of creating, sharing, and viewing photographic images in real-world contexts.	Class discussions Notebook or journal responses Quizzes Written responses to class activities

Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:

PH20_Syllabus_Form A_GE-3A.docx

Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)

Yes

Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?

No

Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:

Programs:
BFA in Photography

Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?

No

Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?

No

I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.

I/we agree

University Learning Goals

Undergraduate Learning Goals:

Knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world
Intellectual and practical skills
Personal and social responsibility
Integrative learning

Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Is this a General Education (GE) or Graduation Requirement (GR) course or is it being considered for GE/GR?

Is this a General Education (GE) course or is it being considered for GE?

Yes

In which GE area(s) does this apply?

3A. Arts

Which GE objective(s) does this course satisfy?

Develop an acquaintance and understanding of cultures and major dynamic social institutions which affect one's life.
Possess a significant and useful understanding of peoples from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, including women and ethnic and other minority groups who have been the objects of prejudice and adverse discrimination within our society.

Attach Course Syllabus with Detailed Outline of Weekly Topics:

PH20_Syllabus_Form A_GE-3A.docx

Syllabi must include: GE area outcomes listed verbatim; catalog description of the course; prerequisites, if any; student learning objectives; assignments; texts; reading lists; materials; grading system; exams and other methods of evaluation.

Will more than one section of this course be offered?

No

General Education - Area 3A: Arts

Section 1.

Indicate in written statements how the course meets the following criteria for Area 3A. Relate the statements to the course syllabus and outline. Be as succinct as possible.

General criteria:

Indicate how the course is introductory and has no prerequisites.

PHOT 20 is designed as an introductory course accessible to students from all disciplines. It introduces foundational conceptual and cultural approaches to photography's role in defining "self" and develops student understanding through lectures, readings, discussions, and guided photographic activities. No prior coursework, technical knowledge, or experience in photography is required. All concepts and skills necessary to complete the course assignments are introduced within the course, and students may use a phone camera or other readily available camera.

Indicate how the course is broad in scope or survey in nature.

The course considers a range of photographic forms and contexts, including self-portraits, personal photographs, selfies, social media, documentary images, moving images, and contemporary artistic practices. Through lectures, readings, discussions, films, and photographic activities, students examine how photography’s historical, cultural, technological, and social contexts shape the ways people see and express themselves.

Specific criteria:

Indicate in written statements how the course meets each of the following Learning Criteria for Area 3A. Relate the statements to the course syllabus and outline. Be as succinct as possible.

Think conceptually and critically about medium, performance or presentation, and production for at least one art form.

PHOT 20 helps students think conceptually and critically about photography by examining how photographic images communicate ideas about identity, memory, experience, time, culture, and social relationships. Through lectures, readings, discussions, films, journal writing, and guided photographic activities, students analyze historical and contemporary images and consider how visual choices,

cultural conventions, technology, and context shape meaning. Students apply this understanding by creating and interpreting their own photographs, comparing forms such as the selfie and the self-portrait, and explaining the conceptual intentions and implications of their work.

Demonstrate knowledge of artistic production, aesthetic properties, and the way creative work is shaped by artistic and cultural forces.

Students analyze, discuss, and make photographs that require intentional decisions about subject, perspective, visual expression, presentation, and context. They examine how artistic practices and photographic conventions are shaped by cultural values, social relationships, technology, and changing ideas about identity. Students demonstrate this knowledge by explaining the conceptual and aesthetic choices in their own use of photography, comparing forms such as the selfie and self-portrait, and considering the broader cultural, social, and ethical implications of photography, media, and social media.

Have an acquaintance with a broad understanding of artistic forms, genres, and cultural sources.

PHOT 20 gives students a broad acquaintance with artistic forms, genres, and cultural sources by examining photography's use as a tool for constructing and communicating identity across multiple historical and contemporary contexts. Through lectures, readings, films, and discussions of artists and cultural examples—including Vivian Maier, Nigel Poor, the Brown Sisters, and Marina Abramović—students encounter diverse approaches to expressing identity, memory, and lived experience. Students further develop this understanding by discussing and interpreting their own uses for photography within society and culture.

Be able to develop and defend informed judgments about creative work

Students use lectures, readings, films, journal responses, and class discussions to support interpretation with attention to visual choices, conceptual intentions, cultural context, and photographic conventions. Through presentations and written reflections, as well as comparisons of forms of photographic representation, students learn to articulate, support, and revise their judgments about the meaning and effectiveness of photographic images and how they may be utilized and interpreted in the society around them.

Includes a writing component described on course syllabus

l) If course is lower division, formal and/or informal writing assignments encouraging students to think through course concepts using at least one of the following: periodic lab reports, exams which include essay questions, periodic formal writing assignments, periodic journals, reading logs, other. Writing in lower division courses need not be graded, but must, at a minimum, be evaluated for clarity and proper handling of terms, phrases, and concepts related to the course.

2) If course is upper division, a minimum of 1500 words of formal, graded writing. [Preferably there should be more than one formal writing assignment and each writing assignment (e.g. periodic lab reports, exams which include essay questions, a research/term paper etc.) should be due in stages throughout the semester to allow the writer to revise after receiving feedback from the instructor. Include an indication of how writing is to be evaluated and entered into course grade determination.]

PHOT 20 integrates writing through a course journal, written reflections accompanying each photographic assignment, and written responses that connect students' images to course concepts. Students use writing to analyze photographic meaning, examine creative decisions, reflect on identity and lived experience, and engage critically with historical and contemporary photographic imagery. Written responses are evaluated for clarity of expression, engagement with course concepts, and appropriate use of photographic terminology.

Section 2.

If you would like, you may provide further information that might help the G.E. Course Review Committee understand how this course meets these criteria and/or the G.E. Program Objectives found in the CSUS Policy Manual, General Education Program, Section I.B.

PHOT 20 was previously approved as a General Education Area E course. Although Area E is not included in the current General Education structure, the course continues to address subjects of broad relevance to the university's student body. By critically examining photography as a culturally pervasive form of communication—including self-representation, personal imagery, and social media—the course engages practices with which most students are familiar and regularly participate. It invites students to consider how photographic images shape identity, relationships, behavior, and perceptions of self and others, thereby supporting the broader aims of General Education and Area 3A.

Key: 3892