

ARTH 1100 History and Appreciation of Photography
Professor Sandra Cheng

FORMAT FOR EXAMS

Exams begin promptly at the start of class. If you arrive late and miss the Slide IDs, there will be little opportunity to go back to Part I. Each exam has four parts.

Part 1 — slide identifications

6 Slide-IDs for 30 points, 12 minutes for section:

- Each image will be projected for 2 minutes
- Identify by name of photographer, if known
- Identify by title or subject matter
- Identify by approximate date (within a 10 year range of the date)
Dates are worth ½ point
- Briefly explain the significance of the photograph (why is this photograph important?)

Part 2 — short answer questions

5 Short Answer Questions for 25 points, 20 minutes for section:

- Identify each slide by name and title only
- Answer different parts of each question.

Part 3 — slide comparison essay

1 Comparison Essay for 25 points, 11 minutes for section:

- Identify each image by artist, title, and approximate date
- You will be given a topic line to help focus your comparison essay.
- To compose the essay you need to think about how the images relate to each other.
- Some key concepts to consider include:
 - the function of each photograph (why were these photos made? what purpose did they serve?)
 - the subject matter
 - the genre (is this portraiture, still life, landscape?)
 - the production of the image (how was each photograph produced?)

Part 4 — terminology

3 definitions and examples of terms for 15 points, 10 minutes for section.

- You are given terms for 6 photographic processes (midterm) or 6 artistic movements (final).
- Select 3 processes/movements to write about
 - Briefly define each term for 3 points
 - Give an example of a photograph produced by the process/movement for 2 points

Extra Credit

Choose 1 out of 2 questions to answer for 3 points. This section is optional.

Please note that exam short lists will be posted online along with the class slidelists. All images you that appear on the exam are taken from this short list. However, you will need to review the names and vocabulary on all slidelists and be able to relate the terms to individual photographs.

Exams last approximately 1 hour.

Sample Exam Questions

Slide Identifications:

Slides are displayed for 2 minutes. Identify as outlined above.

Sample Slide ID: (Emerson's Poling the Marsh-Hay)

Answer: Peter Henry Emerson, Poling the Marsh-Hay, 1886. This photograph represents Emerson's attempt to promote his theory of naturalistic photography. According to Emerson, photographs should imitate natural vision.

Short Answer Questions:

Slides are displayed for 4 minutes. You need to identify the slide by photographer and title and you will be asked a question or series of questions to which you will respond with a name, term, and/or full sentences.

Sample Short Answer Question:

Identify slide: (**photographer** and **title** only). (2 pt) (you will see a slide of Emerson's Poling the Marsh-Hay)

- a. Explain the theory of "naturalistic photography" in relation to this photograph. (2 pt)
- b. Why was this theory eventually renounced? (2 pt)

Answer:

Peter Henry Emerson's Poling the Marsh-Hay

- a. Emerson believed pictures should imitate natural vision, therefore, some things should appear in focus and others should be indistinct. Emerson disliked any manipulation in the darkroom (i.e., enlarging or retouching). He also believed photographers should not imitate other forms of art but focus on natural scenes of everyday life.
- b. Emerson renounced his theory of naturalistic photography because the limitations of the camera made it impossible to reproduce natural vision. For example, the exposure time necessary for taking photographs necessitated the posing of his subjects.