

## **ARTH 1100 History and Appreciation of Photography**

### **FORMAT FOR EXAMS**

Exams begin promptly at the start of class. If you arrive late and miss the Slide IDs, there will be no opportunity to go back to Part I. Each exam has three parts.

#### **Part 1 — slide identifications**

Five Slide-IDs for 20 points: Identify by name, title, date, and significance (why is this photograph important? One sentence). Dates are worth 1/2 point, try to narrow down to a 20-year span. [10 min]

#### **Part 2 — short answer questions**

Four Short Answer Questions for 30 points: Identify each slide by name and title only: and answer different parts of each question. [16 min]

#### **Part 3 — slide comparison essays**

Two Comparison Essays for 50 points: Identify each work by artist and title only. 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 each (how was each photograph produced?). Extra points for details visual analysis and comparisons [20 min]

Extra Credit: Choose 1 of 2 questions to answer for 3 points. This section is optional. [3 min]

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

Exams last approximately 1 hour and 5 min.

#### **Slide Identifications:**

#### **Sample Exam Questions:**

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

### Part 1: **Sample Slide identification:**

Answer: William H. Mumler. Mary Todd Lincoln with the ghost of her husband Abraham Lincoln. C 1869

This photograph appears to show that ghost of Abraham Lincoln, but it was most likely hoax using a double exposure of the photographic plate.

### **Short Answer Questions:**

Slides are displayed for 5-6 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). (1 pt)

(you will see a slide of William H. Mumler. Mary Todd Lincoln with the ghost of her husband Abraham Lincoln)

- a. How was this hoax photograph produced? (1 pt)
- b. What is significant about this image in relation to photography's claim to truth? (3 pt pt)

Answer:

- a. The hoax was most likely produces using a double exposure method where the photographic plate was exposed twice: once to capture the likeness of Mary Todd (the sitter) and then another time to make the impression of the ghost of Abraham Lincoln.
- b. Photography's truth claim suggested that if a photograph shows an object, or scene, then that object, or scene, **must** have been present in front of the camera. The photograph shows what was there and the photograph is evidence that a thing existed. Even if a photograph is deceptive, for example the photograph has been edited, exposed twice (double exposure), cropped, or captioned in a deceptive way, the photograph is still *true*. Something must have appeared before the camera's lens. Photography differs from painting and drawing in this way. In the image of Lincoln's' ghost ['Mary Todd Lincoln with the ghost of her husband Abraham Lincoln. Photographer William H. Mumler, c. 1869'] Lincoln must have been photographed for this image to exist. So, the image is true and false (a hoax).

