

Art History 430: Contemporary Photography

Peter Hales, Professor

Tuesdays, 2-5

303 Henry Hall CRN 28609 (undergrad), 28735 (graduate)



This course draws studio arts majors and graduate students as well as art history students, and combines lectures, discussions and presentations. Students with some familiarity with the history of photography and/or contemporary art are given a crash course in the last 45 years of photography, during which the medium entered museums and art schools as an accepted artistic discipline, became a fashionable speculative field for art collectors, and was effectively integrated into the more general field of “contemporary art,” as a wave of painters, conceptual artists, and postmoderns integrated photographs into multi-media works or began to make photographs as if they were simply products of a wider artistic practice. We will then devote most of the semester to a study of the consequences of this disintegration of the medium and its reintegration into a wider artistic and cultural practice. Students will write regular blog entries, take a mastery exam or write a mid-term essay, and produce a final project in a mode appropriate to their practice—photographs, written essays, works of art, poetry.... The professor is a practicing photographer, critic and historian, with wide sympathies.