

History of Photography
Fall, 2006
Term Paper Assignment

A research paper of 8-10 pages is due on December 5 at the beginning of class. Choose a topic that interests you. A paper of this scope will be pure drudgery if you don't enjoy your topic. You can write on an artist, movement, or issue in photography. However, you must pick a topic that is not too broad. You can browse through your reading material, books, galleries, magazines, and the library (etc.) to generate ideas.

A one-page proposal is due Monday, October 3. The proposal should describe your topic, the issues you plan to consider, and the images you plan to use. This means narrowing your topic, e.g., not "Cindy Sherman" but "Cindy Sherman's critique of the male gaze." Your paper should develop a thesis, not simply be a report.

Your paper must use at least five academic sources (i.e., scholarly books or journals) and at least two of them must be scholarly journal articles. Internet sources can be very useful. However, they will not be counted as one of your five academic sources unless cleared with me first. You will probably have to use interlibrary loan to obtain some of your sources. This will take extra time, so do not delay getting your source material together.

Form: Your paper must be typed. It should be eight to ten double-spaced pages using an easily readable 10 or 12 point font. Please number your pages. You must also include photocopies of images you refer to in your paper. They should be numbered "Fig. 1," "Fig. 2," etc. Each image should be provided with a caption and referred to parenthetically in the text. Example:

The inconsistencies in perspective can be seen in Robinson's composite photograph "When the Day's Work is Done." (Fig. 6)

You must turn in a bibliography with your paper. You must also use proper bibliographic form. Please consult *The Bedford Handbook* or the class Web site (<http://faculty.cva.edu/ah222/>) for proper bibliographic form.

See me if you are having problems with your paper! You may hand in a draft of your paper early (at least one week) in order to get feedback from me. This will allow you to revise your paper before it is due. **Late papers will not be accepted.**

Criteria for Grading

A: An “A” paper presents a thought-provoking, original, and focused thesis supported by well-researched points. The writing clearly communicates these ideas and they are documented in proper bibliographic form. Also, the paper should use appropriate vocabulary and be free of serious grammatical errors. You should prove to me that you have thought through your subject from a number of perspectives.

B: A “B” paper will be clearly written, well documented, and present a clear and somewhat original thesis. The paper is clearly laid out, the thesis is supported, and the paper is free of major grammatical errors. It uses proper and appropriate bibliographic form. The fault with a “B” paper lies with a less original thesis explored from fewer perspectives.

C: A “C” paper is fundamentally competent. The paper has a thesis that is supported by appropriate points and the writer has proven a basic understanding of the ideas and material explored. The “C” paper might lack an original thesis. The research may only support the thesis superficially or the development may have gaps where the writer has jumped to (unsupported) conclusions.

D: A “D” paper has fundamental flaws in it. The gist of the argument is understandable, but the thesis is not clearly presented or is inadequately explored and the conclusions the writer has drawn are not justified. The paper might present only factual information (as in a report) lacking any original thinking. There is little evidence that the writer has done any serious thinking about the subject of the paper.

F: An “F” paper does not meet the requirements of the assignment in any meaningful way.