



Syllabus

Course Title: Photography in London: England through the Camera's Lens

Program and Date: CCSA London Signature Summer, May to June, 2026

Academic Department: Art, Photography, Design, Communication

Instructor Name: Laura Hartford

Instructor Email and Phone: lhartford@bellarmine.edu ; 502-930-8211 (cell)

Get to Know Your Professor

I'm an Associate Professor of Art at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. I've been teaching photography for over 30 years, and since 2009, I've participated in the CCSA London program eight times. Each experience is an adventure, with students making new discoveries and capturing unique, beautiful images.

In addition to digital photography, I have a deep interest in early photographic practices and practitioners and in English Victorian culture. As part of our course, we'll talk about the cultural impact of photography when it was introduced in the early 19th century. I particularly enjoy incorporating fun alternative photographic practices into this class because they offer insight into photography's history and enhance understanding of the basic scientific principles that made photography possible.

I'm looking forward to spending part of our summer together exploring England and making creative images.

Course Description

Designed for students of all skill levels, this hands-on course offers a chance to grow your photography skills while experiencing London's dynamic cultural scene. Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your technique, you'll work at your own pace to build a personal portfolio that captures your unique vision. From photographing iconic landmarks like Big Ben and the London Eye to discovering hidden gems tucked away in the city's neighborhoods, you'll find plenty of inspiration around every corner. The course balances technical training with creative exploration, giving you opportunities to experiment with both traditional and contemporary photography methods. Visits to galleries and museums deepen your understanding of photography's artistic and historical context. You'll also journey outside the city to rural Wiltshire, the birthplace of photography, to gain insight into its origins and evolution. In addition to developing your technical skills, you'll learn to see the world through a more thoughtful lens, paying close attention to composition, color, and light. This course is not only about taking pictures but



Syllabus

about capturing stories and moments that reflect your experience in one of the world's most vibrant cities.

Course Level and Credit Hours

3 Credit Hours; undergraduate (including honors) and graduate credit is available for eligible students.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

1. control camera exposure setting, including ISO, shutter speed, aperture, color space, and white balance;
2. interpret camera light meters, histograms, and highlight alerts;
3. communicate a foundational understanding of the ways in which photographs convey meaning;
4. apply core principles of visual design, including balance, depth, and the rule of thirds; and demonstrate the effective use of line, shape, texture, color, pattern, and other compositional elements;
5. create artistic works inspired by historical and contemporary experiments in photography, including pinhole, cyanotype, light-painting, and/or album-making.

Required Readings and Materials

Reading materials will be supplied by the instructor. These may include excerpts from Terry Barret's *Interpreting Photographs* and other texts. Please be familiar with your camera's user manual or bring a copy with you if available. I recommend *Digital Photography: A Basic Manual* by Henry Horenstein as an introduction to digital cameras for those interested.

Assignments and Grades

Undergraduate Assignments (100 points)

1. 10 points: Pre-Departure Reading Response
2. 10 points: Online 'Short Lessons' and Test Your Knowledge Quizzes
3. 20 points: Blog Posts
4. 10 points: In-progress Portfolio Peer Review / Critique
5. 40 points: Final Digital Photography Portfolio
6. 05 points: Participation – discussions, critiques, field trips, activities, photo exercises
7. 05 points: Post Program Reflection Assignment

Undergraduate Honors Assignments (100 points)

1. 05 points: Pre-Departure Reading Response
2. 10 points: Online 'Short Lessons' and Test Your Knowledge Quizzes
3. 10 points: Exhibit Research and Presentation
4. 15 points: Blog Posts
5. 10 points: In-progress Portfolio Peer Review / Critique
6. 40 points: Final Digital Photography Portfolio
7. 05 points: Participation – discussions, critiques, field trips, activities, photo exercises
8. 05 points: Post Program Reflection Assignment

Graduate Assignments (100 points)

1. 05 points: Pre-Departure Reading Response
2. 10 points: Online 'Short Lessons' and Test Your Knowledge Quizzes
3. 15 points: Exhibit Research and Presentation
4. 15 points: Blog Posts
5. 10 points: In-progress Portfolio Peer Review / Critique
6. 40 points: Final Digital Photography Portfolio
7. 05 points: Post Program Reflection Assignment

Syllabus

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

97-100 = A+
94-96 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
84-86 = B
80-83 = B-
77-79 = C+
74-76 = C
70-73 = C-
66-69 = D+
60-66 = D
0-59 = F

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list, which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

1. Lacock Abbey (LO #1, 2, 4, 5) – Tour of the museum and abbey and access to estate grounds (while taking photographs). This is where photography was invented by William Henry Fox Talbot in the 1830s.
2. Victoria and Albert Museum Photography Centre (LO #3, 4) – The relatively new center houses photographs that span the history of the medium.
3. The London Eye and South Bank (LO #1, 2, 4) – Photography shoot from the Eye and light painting photography after dark along the South Bank.
4. Kew Gardens or other regional gardens/parks (LO #1, 2, 4, 5) – Photography shoot and cyanotype printing using leaves, flowers, grass, and other natural elements, emulating the first botanical cyanotypes published by Anna Atkins in 1843.
5. Additional Museums and Galleries, including The Photographers Gallery (LO #3, 4) – To view photographic exhibits.



Syllabus

6. Street Art Tour of Shoreditch (LO #1, 2, 4)
7. Additional outings to take photographs and experience British culture
8. A visiting lecture by Denis Pellerin and Rebecca Sharpe, curators of the Sir Brian May Archive of Stereoscopy (LO #3, 5) – With an introduction to making 3D photographs.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings, as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Since nearly all work will be completed on site, an unexcused absence will result in a full-letter reduction of the final course grade. Three significantly late arrivals equal one absence.

Late work will be accepted, with a letter grade deduction for each class session it's overdue.

Academic Integrity Policy

WKU and CCSA member institutions exist for the sake of the advancement of knowledge; the pursuit of truth; the intellectual, ethical, and social development of students; and the well-being of society. All members of our community have an obligation to themselves, their peers, and instructors to uphold the integrity of CCSA and their home universities. This means that one's work should be one's own and that the instructor's evaluation should be based on the student's own efforts and understanding.

For a thorough description of policies, please refer to the Undergraduate Academic Policies' Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy in your home institution's course catalog, as well as those in the WKU catalog. Remember that plagiarism rules (and laws) pertain to images. All work submitted for credit for the summer program, including photographs, must be created by the student and specifically for the class.

In the event that a student violates academic honesty expectations, the instructor will decide whether the violation merits failure for the assignment or for the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported to WKU and to the student's home institution.



Syllabus

Physical Expectations

The program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Additionally, students should have adequate vision for basic camera operations like focusing and enough manual dexterity to operate camera controls. This course is not recommended for students with learning differences that directly affect their capacity to discuss and apply ideas related to composition, such as perspective, depth, balance, pattern, etc., or to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical, historical, and technical course content. Accommodations can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in an effort to make the course as inclusive as possible. Studying in a new environment is exciting and fun, but it requires some resiliency and flexibility. It is not recommended that students start any new medications or change prescriptions during or right before our travel abroad experience.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student, or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.