

DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM

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Assistant professor and chair

arts.vcu.edu/photofilm (<http://arts.vcu.edu/photofilm/>)

The Department of Photography and Film aims to facilitate a comprehensive artistic, technical and intellectual understanding and use of the mediums of photography and film; to provide a rigorous education in the arts, specifically in photographic and moving image media, and a broad education in other academic subjects; to foster a climate that inspires creativity, intellectual curiosity, freedom of expression and critical-thinking. The department fosters a pluralistic approach that allows both faculty and students to expand the traditional boundaries of the respective media and engage in multidisciplinary practice.

The department offers undergraduate concentrations in photography and filmmaking resulting in a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Film, as well as a graduate program that leads to a Master of Fine Arts in Fine Arts with a concentration in photography and film.

To promote student development and research of contemporary art practice and theory, the Department of Photography and Film presents a diverse and active visiting artist program. Through lectures, critiques and research courses, students are exposed to the valuable insights of respected international artists, scholars and critics. In addition, the visiting artists teach topics courses exploring the current artistic and conceptual foundations found in their own work. Graduate students are encouraged to establish an individual critical dialogue with the visiting artists and faculty and attain a strong critical and historical basis for their work.

The facilities include several critique and screening rooms; a large black-and-white darkroom; a large state-of-the-art digital photography and film editing lab; a shooting studio; a student checkout center with a wide range of still photography and film cameras, professional lights and sound recording equipment; a professionally staffed graphics lab located in the same building that provides student with digital services on several high-tech imaging devices; and individual graduate M.F.A. studios.

- Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in photography and film (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/school-arts/photography-film/fine-arts-mfa-concentration-photography-film/>)

PHTO 621. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.

Semester course; 1-3 research hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of nine credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts concentrations; nonmajors can enroll with permission of the instructor. Approval of supervising faculty member and department chair necessary prior to registration. Learning experiences will be designed with the supervising faculty member in the form of a contract between student and instructor.

PHTO 670. Graduate Studio. 6 Hours.

Semester course; 9 studio hours. 6 credits. Repeated for a total of 24 credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts photography and film concentration. Primary emphasis is placed on individual creative projects and on discussion of individual creative projects with regular exposure to the critical attention of other graduate students in the department, under the direction of the teaching faculty. Special emphasis is given to the development of personal expression through individual research and criticism.

PHTO 681. Candidacy Research. 1,3 Hour.

Semester course; 1.5 or 4.5 studio hours. 1 or 3 credits. Must be repeated for a total of six credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts photo/film concentration. This course comprises the process of producing work to achieve candidacy, a crucial qualifying step in which student's academic achievements are reviewed, and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program is determined.

PHTO 690. Graduate Seminar. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Must be repeated for at least six credits and no more than 12 credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts photography and film and kinetic imaging concentrations. Weekly seminar for the purpose of examining contemporary issues within the field of fine art, broadening critical discourse and considering artists' work within the context of a creative practice.

PHTO 691. Special Topics Studio. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 4.5 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of nine credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts concentrations. A studio course that focuses on specific issues, theories or historical events in relationship to students' research and studio practice.

PHTO 692. Independent Studio. 3 Hours.

Semester course; 4.5 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of nine credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts concentrations. An independent studio course that allows students to develop specific skills or explore techniques. Approval of supervising faculty member and department chair necessary prior to registration.

PHTO 693. Fieldwork, Internship. 3,6 Hours.

Semester course; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Professional field experience in the theoretical and practical applications of photography and/or film through cooperative organizations. Formal arrangements will be made with state agencies, industries, community organizations, and professionals in the field.

PHTO 699. Thesis. 1,3 Hour.

Semester course; 1.5 or 4.5 studio hours. 1 or 3 credits. Must be repeated for a total of six credits. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students in the M.F.A. in Fine Arts photography and film concentration. This course comprises the process of producing work for and exhibiting it in the thesis exhibition; a written thesis; and an oral presentation by second-year M.F.A. students, a crucial qualifying step for students to complete the program. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.