

# Photography Theory 2022

## (DOM-E3045)

*Schedule updated 12.1.2022, changes are possible!*

### SPRING 2022 SCHEDULE (Thursdays 9.15-12)

- 13.1 Harri: Introduction to (photography) theory
- 20.1 Harri: **Roland Barthes and photography**
- 27.1 **Theorizing (New) Optical Media: Virtual Reality and Other Algorithmic Image Systems**  
Sheung Yiu: **Hyperimage: Thinking Deep and Big With Algorithmic Image Systems**  
Petri Juntunen: **Place as Palimpsest -Politics of Iconoclasm and Repositories of Infamy**
- 3.2 Mika Elo: **Photographic apparatus I: the camera and the eye**
- 10.2 Mika Elo: **Photographic apparatus II: the subface**
- 17.2 Harri Pälviranta: **Post-documentary photography and witnessing**
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- 3.3 Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger: **When is post-photography?**
- \* 6.3 **Deadline: Assignment idea/abstract/draft (you can always submit it earlier, too!)**  
**(1-2 pages = e.g. beginning/draft of essay describing main idea).**  
**Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi**
- 10.3 Marjaana Kella: **Rethinking photographic abstraction**
- 17.3 Harri: **Jean-Luc Nancy and Photography**
- \* 20.3 **Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> full draft. Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi**
- 24.3 Presentations 1
- 31.3 Presentations 2
- \* 31.3-2.4 ***Helsinki Photomedia Conference*** (keynote lectures included in course, details TBA)
- 7.4 Presentations 3 + End session
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- \* 24.4 **Deadline: Final draft. Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi**

**NB:** You also have the possibility for voluntary individual meetings (by skype or Zoom – or the pandemic permitting on campus) with Harri during the course, in case you want to discuss the assignments or other photography theory related issues. Please set the meeting time by email.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance 80% and participation, reading assigned texts, completing required essays and tasks.

**There will be one individual essay assignment/project (5-7 pages + possible images OR equivalent) and a presentation based on that, done in small groups of 2-4.** You can choose the topic of your essay/project quite freely (as long as it relates to photography theory in any of the ways in which it is addressed during the course.)

Your individual assignment/project will be completed in 4 stages:

- 1) Submit a 1-2 pages essay assignment idea/abstract/draft at the latest 6th March. (Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi)
- 2) Submit 1st full draft by 20th March. The “first full draft” means that most of the material is in place but it is not yet the polished work. (Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi)
- 3) You will work in small groups (decided by teacher based on your themes) and will do a presentation as a group – in which the assignments of all individual members of the group are represented (so that everyone gets to know what the others are doing). You may do this as a ppt presentation including all the projects, as a discussion or debate. Whichever way your group wishes. The presentations will be 24.3, 31.3, and 7.4.
- 4) After the course “officially ends” you will still have time to work on your essay/project – taking into account the feedback and ideas you have got from your peers. The final deadline is 24th April. (Send as pdf to harri.laakso@aalto.fi)

Things to consider when choosing an essay/project topic:

- \* An essay which relates your photographic work (/your interest in photography) to the theories discussed in the course.
- \* It is helpful to study one key text/thinker in detail and structure your thinking around their ideas (the ways in which you agree or disagree with them, or think that they timely or out of date).
- \* Think how is it possible (*or is it possible*) to address philosophical themes in photographs and films? How can theories be depicted in image form or vice versa? The essay can deal with the way in which philosophical ideas/texts/books have been adapted/adopted to films, issues of artistic research, relation of images and words etc.
- \* An experiment in photography theory. Experiment with alternative way of writing/doing photography theory. (Can be a work combining images and words in a new way, a short video etc.)