

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Photographic Cultures in the Smartphone Era - 50276*

*Last update 31-10-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* Communication & Journalism

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Paul Frosh

*Coordinator Email:* [paul.frosh@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:paul.frosh@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Mondays 1500-1600

*Teaching Staff:*

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Prof. Paul Frosh

Course/Module description:

*This research course addresses a contemporary conundrum: assuming that most of the traditional components of photography have been replaced or altered in the digital era, how is it that it has retained its identity and meaning over time? How has photography not only flourished as a key means of communication in everyday life, but has expanded into digital and virtual areas where - technically speaking - it should not exist? And what are the social and cultural consequences of the persistence and expansion of photography in the contemporary era?*

Course/Module aims:

*In this research course we will address the question of photography's survival and flourishing through theories of photography and digital media, with an emphasis on processes of collective memory. We will examine the phenomenon through relevant case studies from contemporary culture, such as the character of smartphone photography applications, the status of screenshots and of photography in virtual worlds, the resurgence of analogue photography on digital platforms like Instagram, and more.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- \* Develop interpretive, analytical and theoretical skills in relation to photography and media in the digital era.*
- \* Understand and critique key concepts of digital and visual media.*
- \* Formulate research questions and research programmes concerning contemporary photography.*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading and discussion.*

Course/Module Content:

*Main topics and case-studies (subject to alteration during the course):*

- 1. Analogue and digital photography.*
- 2. The death and life of media: remediation, relocation and the cultural memory of media.*
- 3. Smartphone photography applications and practices.*
- 4. Photography and social media.*

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5. Photography challenges and activist photography.
  6. The gatekeepers of photography: professions, organizations, institutions.
  7. The revitalisation of film photography in a digital world.
  8. New photographic forms? The screenshot.
  9. New photographic forms? The GIF and 'Live Photos'.
  10. Algorithmic photography.

Required Reading:

*The final reading list will be distributed at the beginning of the course.*

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %  
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research  
proposal 30 %  
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 20 %*

Additional information:

*The research course is very dynamic and is likely to change over the semester to reflect the interests of participants. Active weekly participation in class discussions is essential to success in the course.*