

Travel Photography

Virginia Wesleyan University
European Travel: March 12-21, 2020

Spring 2020 4 credit hours
Library 202 M,W 2:30 – 3:45pm
Instructor Ms. Sharon Swift, Professor, Art Department Chairman
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment
Office: Birdsong 104, e-mail: sswift@vwu.edu

Course Description

ART 307 Travel Photography (4 credits) with travel to London and Amsterdam over spring break 2020.

Studio art course featuring on-location photography and creating visual travel journals from collage materials. Students learn digital camera features, create projects “off the beaten track in Hampton Roads,” and use Adobe Creative Suite software to edit images. Prior to our European travel, projects will utilize the Hampton Roads area for local travel photo projects. Students must participate in all course-related local field trip and travel. A digital camera and appropriate supplies are required. Exercises and portfolios will be graded from digital files. Upon return from Europe students will finish journals, edit images and select photos for an on-campus exhibition and reception. In Europe we will be traveling with the PSYCH 285 Topics: Art & Abnormality class of Dr. Taryn Myers. This will necessitate some out-of-class group meetings prior to the London/Amsterdam spring break trip. We also plan to meet together to view a few movies related to our travel destinations. Prerequisite: consent.

Over Spring Break we will be making photos almost everywhere we go. So you should have your camera with you at all times. We will photograph street life, architectural details, and possibly do some night photo shoots. Here are some photo location highlights: London - Kew Botanical Garden - Palm House & Treetop Walkway, St Paul’s Cathedral, London Eye for views of the London Skyline and the River Thames, Trafalgar Square. Amsterdam: Canal walk, windmills, floating flower market, Museum Square - Van Gogh Museum & the national museum of the Netherlands. We will tour the Red Light District - BUT photos there are *strictly prohibited - NO EXCEPTIONS, local authorities will enforce.*

Required Text: Travel Photography by Steve Davey, copyright 2013
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Course Objectives: after successfully completing ART 307 the student will:

- understand & control functions of digital cameras for creative outcomes
- define basic photographic terminology
- recognize, and avoid, common technical flaws
- make correct exposures with normal tonal range
- develop visual perception abilities to recognize strong photo form & content
- identify & apply basic concepts of composition to original photographic works of art
- participate in the verbal and written critique of photographic artworks
- develop creative concepts for multiple photographic bodies of work
- use Adobe Creative Suite editing software for post-production
- create multiple portfolios of photographic works in digital formats
- select “best” images for exhibition

Policies:

- **ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to be in class. No make-up days are provided. A few meetings and a field trip outside of class time will be **REQUIRED** prior to our Spring Break Travel. To receive full credit, assigned activities must be completed on the scheduled days. Excessive absences **ALWAYS** result in lower grades. Students missing four class meetings should anticipate a drop in course grade. At five absences the course grade automatically becomes an "F." All absences due to university-related activities, or **SERIOUS** illness should be documented in writing. It is the student's responsibility to schedule a meeting **outside of class time** to discuss serious circumstances resulting in absences. The instructor will determine on a case-by-case basis for **EACH** absence, if exercise or project deadlines will be extended without a grade penalty. Students anticipating absences due to a VWU sponsored event should provide notification prior to the absence.
- **TARDINESS:** Excessive tardiness is disrespectful to the class and the instructor. Late arrivals should be kept to a minimum. Software demonstrations and project instructions are always presented at the beginning of class and may not be repeated.
- **LATE WORK POLICY:** Software exercises started in class but submitted the next scheduled course meeting are accepted for full credit. Projects may be submitted up to two weeks late with the exception of the final project. Be advised that late work will not receive full credit and is ineligible for a grade of "A" regardless of quality. Excellent work is not late.
- **CELL PHONES** – will be used for some shooting assignments. You should research and download a photo app that includes creative controls such as manual mode, white balance, ISO, exposure compensation, HDR (high dynamic range), macro, etc. Phones should not be visible during critiques, lectures, or demos. At those times when I am helping students individually, you may use your phone in text mode.
- **CRITIQUES:** Most of our projects will include a critique. These may be oral critiques in class or consist of typed paragraphs, or artist statements submitted when the project is due. Group critiques are an important part of the learning process in any studio art course.
- **SOFTWARE:** If you experience technical problems with the software, hardware or the network, bring it to my attention immediately so the problem can be addressed. **But do not waste your time fighting a machine – move to another one.** All computer projects must be completed using the assigned Adobe Creative Suite software.
- **LAB ACCESS TO SOFTWARE:** The 24-hour lab in the Library, Library Rm 202, and 4 machines located outside of Greer 240 in the second floor lounge area, have all of the software used in class. A limited number of key cards for access to Greer 240 may be requested. Ask me. You may work in Library 202 any time a class is not meeting or even during a small class - **ONLY** with that instructor's permission. To transfer your files to work at different locations, either use the server space you have been assigned on the "H" drive or a USB removable drive. The latter is **NOT** recommended for your **ONLY** copy of an important file. Should you decide to purchase any of the software for your own computer, full-time students can get cloud-based subscriptions for about \$10 per month. Making a copy of someone else's software is a violation of U.S. and international Copyright Law and is a felony.
- **BACKING UP FILES:** On your "H" drive, in a folder called "Art 307" you should save all exercises and the images for each of your project portfolios, in clearly labeled

folders. Edited images should be placed in a separate folder. Save only non-destructive edits to your original files. Image files are large – you may need to clean out your “H” drive space to free up room for storing class files.

- **INDIVIDUAL HELP:** A portion of class time is devoted to helping you individually. I will also help you outside of class by appointment. However, I do not make individual appointments for students who miss deadlines because of unexcused absences.
- **COMMUNICATIONS:** If it is necessary to contact you individually, I use your VWU e-mail address. VWU e-mail can be accessed through the college web site at <http://www.vwu.edu>.
- **CALENDAR: Changes** - Any announcements or scheduling changes that must be made will be communicated in class and posted to Blackboard later. So check there if you must be absent. It is your responsibility to be aware of any changes. I will never make a change to give you LESS time for a project or exercise.
- **DUE DATES:** Projects are due at the beginning of class on the date listed in the calendar unless noted otherwise. Like-wise text book assignments should be read prior to the date listed in preparation for discussion in class.

VWU Honor Code For a complete discussion for the Honor Code see the Student Handbook. In addition, visual arts projects submitted for grades in this course must be solely your original works of art. Any student breaking this rule fails the course and is immediately barred from any further meetings or activities for this course. All academic violations will be reported to Provost’s Office.

For Students Requesting Accommodations

Virginia Wesleyan University is committed to giving all students the opportunity of academic success. If you are a student who is requesting accommodations based on the academic impact of a disability, speak to me about your accommodations letter and your specific needs. If you do not have an accommodation letter for this course, you will need to visit or call for an appointment with Disability Support Specialist Crit Muniz at (757) 233-8898 or by email at nmuniz@vwu.edu to coordinate reasonable accommodations. He is located in the Learning Center, Clarke Hall.

Course Evaluation based on the following:

- 10% preliminary shooting exercises – familiarity with camera controls & techniques
 - digital camera controls & cell phone app exercises
- 10% editing software exercises in Adobe Creative Suite
- 20% 2 local travel project portfolios – 10 color corrected & edited images each, digital files only
 - includes artist statements
- 30% on-location shooting assignments in London and Amsterdam & edited digital files
- 20% travel journals - sample pages prior to trip, and journal created on-location
- 10% participation to include:
 - reading assignments - prepared for class discussion
 - oral critiques of exercises & assignments
 - exhibition of selected works - may be a slide show with reception

Grading Scale

A	94-100	B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69	F	0-50
A-	90-93	B	84-87	C	74-77	D	64-67		
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73	D-	60-63		

Required Equipment & Supplies

- digital camera with numerous shooting modes, should including manual controls
- multiple sets of batteries, or rechargeable batteries & compatible charger
- multiple storage cards, SD or specialty media for your camera, 2GB or higher recommended, best to not have ALL on only 1 card
- second camera as a back-up, cell phone is fine - *quick repairs are impossible*
- cell phone app with manual controls
- storage device for download/backup of images – laptop, tablet, use of “H” drive

Specific Supplies for Spring Break Travel

 we will discuss these items in detail

- electrical power converters & adapters for UK & Netherlands
- luggage: ONLY 1 small, lightweight rolling/carry-on bag
and 1 personal item which must be small day pack/camera bag
- large backpacks are not allowed in many museums.
You should anticipate having your camera with you 24/7.
free SD card prizes will be awarded for light packing
- TSA approved lock for bag - for use in airports and hotel rooms
- money belt - to be worn under clothing, holds cash, ID, emergency info, etc.
- consider how you will carry your cell phone - back pocket is a bad idea
- Maps - on-line versions downloaded to phones for use offline
- passport, picture ID, insurance card
- copy of passport - kept in a separate place from original (& I will have digital copies)
- a clothing packing list to be provided but consider we are packing LIGHT. There are specialty companies with quick-dry clothes that can be hand washed.

For your London/Amsterdam project, required travel journal:

- writing materials – pens, markers, colored pencils, misc
As we travel we will collect tourist brochures & maps, cutting them up and adding them to your notes, sketches, and journal assignments etc.
- The Art Dept will provide: a small moleskin booklet for journaling, adhesive squares, a hand-held paper cutter; we will make stickers in class. You may want more items.

ASSIGNMENTS

Exercises will be titled “Shooting assignment #1, #2” etc. These are designed to help you improve basic skills, use a broad range of your camera controls, and recognize and make better compositions.

Portfolios There will be 2 local travel-themed assignments called “portfolios.” These must consist of related, edited images that comprise a body of work created in response to a specific shooting assignment; includes artist statement for each portfolio.

Portfolio 1 Topic – “Walking tour of Portsmouth Old Town”

Requirements: a cohesive set of 10, edited digital images. We will be taking the Tide Light Rail, the ferry across the river from Norfolk to Portsmouth, walking through Old Towne, and going to historic churches. This is a required field trip.

Portfolio 2 Topic – “Off the Beaten Track in Hampton Roads”

Requirements: approved topic, a cohesive set of 10 digital images on a specific, narrowly defined topic.

EUROPEAN PROJECT - JOURNAL

Journaling Requirement Overview – You will receive a small moleskin booklet. You have some pre-trip and post-trip specific writing assignments and research to record in your journal. You are to construct your journal as a visual scrap book.

Pre-departure you are to paste in the journal entry descriptions and on-location shooting assignment descriptions, itinerary, and other printouts that I will give you.

During travel You should spend some time each day working on your journal. You will be writing entries, possibly sketching, and collaging materials you are to collect during our travel abroad. One possibility is to write a daily highlight and low point.

“In-process individual review” of your journal entries – we can do part of that during travel time, at meals or at night in the hotels etc.

Post-trip you are to write your responses to your travel experiences. The plane trip is a good time to write your post-trip entries. Once we are home finish adding collected materials and some of your photos. Once it is complete you are to make color scans of selected journal pages for our exhibition. Scans must be high quality.

Journal Entry 1. Find three quotes about travel that get your attention. These can come from ANY source (*must be attributed to the author*).

Pre-departure Leave space to add responses, then write the quotes & authors in the journal. Add these subtitles: “pre-trip” and “post-trip.” Write your pre-trip responses during your research phase of your European portfolio. Discuss why you either agree or disagree with the concept expressed in each quote. Leave room for post-trip responses to be completed as we head home.

Post-trip Note if your ideas have changed as a result of your overseas travel experiences. Were your experiences in the two cities similar or different? Explain.

Journal Entry 2.

Pre-departure Create a section in your journal for each city. Add our hotel names and note each address and phone number. Using a colored marker, identify the locations on a downloaded free city map from the internet. Print a small map, or map section, and add to your journal. Identify the mass transit closest to each of our hotels.

Journal Entry 3. Research for Personal Shooting Projects, 1 in each city

Based on your research you will turn in 20 images, 10 of London, 10 of Amsterdam. This project must be based on the following criteria:

Pre-departure

Research possible photo shoot locations – 2 to 3 for each of our 2 cities – London & Amsterdam and add to your journal. In each city you will have some free time. You are to plan for the use of that time to complete a photo shoot in each city. The reason for 2-3 choices for each city is that you cannot control weather, transportation issues, etc. You are only required to shoot in one of your choice locations per city. Note – you will have to pair up so that no one is traveling around any city by themselves. The collection of the research material can be split up between your travel partners. But each of you need to add it to your journals.

For each of your 2-3 photo possibilities per city you are to:

- (1) identify the location
- (2) identify 1 or more class “buddies” to travel with
- (3) describe what you hope to photograph there
- (4) list any associated costs – entrance fees, etc
- (5) map out the appropriate transportation options – walk, cab, train, bus route, etc.
- (6) note the time it should take to arrive at your destination
- (7) list the approximate cost of your transportation.

Post-trip Note which ideas worked and how successful your photo shoot went. Did anything unexpected come up? How did you handle it?

Journal Entry 4. Final Journal Entry – self reflection

Post-trip

- (1) What is the one thing about EACH city that you most want to communicate to your friends and family back in the states?
- (2) What surprised or delighted you the most?
- (3) What is the one thing you wish you had known before making this trip?
- (4) What was the overall highlight of the trip?
- (5) How has your understanding of London or Amsterdam, of travel, or of yourself, been altered by the trip?
- (6) What was your best experience? Your best art experience?

EUROPEAN PROJECT - PHOTOS

PHOTOS The portfolio images will be shot on our Spring Break trip. Digital files are to be edited & collected for grading upon our return to campus. You will shoot many more than the required number. Only turn in strong, well-seen, well-made images. The 5 images you identify as your overall “best” will be considered for exhibition. You have several specific Shooting Requirements listed below.

During travel -

Two (minimum) Individual Photo reviews – I need to see your “in process” work, a minimum of once in each city. I will meet with you individually to review images during “down” time during evenings or while we are traveling from place to place.

PHOTO SHOOT PART I: Personal Project - 20 images, 10 of London, 10 of Amsterdam must be based on the preliminary research in your journal.

Pre-departure - use research from Journal item #3 for location/event.

During travel you are also to tell me your group’s plans for the day/evening and your approximate return time to our hotel, or other pre-arranged meeting point.

Post-trip 10 edited images for each city are to be loaded into the appropriate on-line shared folders.

PART II ASSIGNED PHOTOS - Visual Interpretation of a Journal entry 5 photos

During travel Select one quote about travel from the journal entry #1 which you believe can be interpreted effectively with photographs. Create 5 images that you feel relate to or express the selected quote.

Post-trip Some of these may be exhibited with the quotes.

PART III ASSIGNED PHOTOS

FORM - Working with Photo Techniques 15 photos total

3 photos - ANGLES - Shoot from an unpredictable, high or low vantage point. Try extreme variations, such as an ant’s or eagle’s eye view.

3 photos - DETAILS & ABSTRACTS - YOU MOVE closer or zoom; extreme close-ups will require **macro** setting. Try cutting off the subject on all sides of the image. It is not important to be able to know what the item is.

3 photos - MOTION - Stop motion, show it as a blur, or pan (move with the subject).

3 photos - FRAMING DEVICES Shoot through architectural details such as doorways, arches, or branches, between strong shadows, through a bike. Shoot under a person’s bent knees while laying at the beach, or a brightly dressed person in front of someone holding open neutral colored newspaper.

3 photos - SIZE & SCALE Shooting from an extremely low angle will make foreground items appear “larger than life.” Shooting things that are distant from each can create the illusion that they are not “normal size,” for example, a person as tall as London’s Big Ben. You may find some naturally occurring size differences, for example a tiny dog and a huge dog together.

NOTES ON FORM

- Avoid the “snap shot” approach to photography – subject centered, background clutter, unintentional inclusions, photographer standing about 10 feet from the subject. Don’t always place the subject right in the middle - experiment
- Eliminate unnecessary components & distractions by moving yourself or the camera
- Fill the picture plane; crop off subjects at edges
- Make a variety of horizontal and vertical shots, even of the same subject
- Create emphasis by using placement, or variations in size and/or color
- Align straight-edged items with the edges of the image
- Look for unusual color combinations, interesting shapes, negative space (voids or open space)
- Capture balance or unbalance (tension), for ex: use diagonals to create tension, implied motion and more dynamic shots. Center subjects with a wide base of stable, triangular compositions.
- Experiment with shutter speed
Motion – stopped or shown as a blur
Shallow depth of Field for emphasis of a focal point

EUROPEAN PROJECT CONTINUED

CONTENT - 20 to 25 photos total (5 may be repeated as overall “best”)

5 photos - DRAMATIC LIGHT Try for a variety of types of lighting. All photos are about light. But the ones you select for this category should have light that stands out - not just sunsets (color) but strong or soft light that “makes” the photo. If the lighting was altered, the photo would be drastically different.

5 photos - “Can’t see that Back Home”

5 photos - Human Interest

5 photos - “BEST” overall - can be repeated from the previous photos.

10 photos - images of members of our group - to be shared after the trip

NOTES ON CONTENT

- **subjects to consider:** landscapes; nature & garden details; people shots – portraits and interactions, posed & candid; architecture details & cityscapes; cultural differences, social or political issue (be sensitive - lots of people do NOT want to be photographed)
- capture or express an emotion - expressions, body language, position, lighting
- Look for interactions between people, people and their pets, people & the environment
- Try a narrative approach to visually tell a story in a series of three images
- Identify a subject that is unique to the place - that you just would not see back in the states

Post-trip Selecting images, cropping, color correcting, etc. edited images are to be loaded into the appropriate on-line shared folders. You will have folders for each of the required sets.

Back on Campus.....Bring ALL of your image disks to class.

After carefully reviewing and editing - Inside the shared Course Folder on Google Docs called "EUROPE PORTFOLIO" - Each of you will have a folder titled your name.

Save your images as jpgs.

Title your images with the requirement followed by your title for the image. For example: **Human interest – Kandinsky Café, Amsterdam.jpg**

Instructions will be provided on downloading photos and scans of select journal pages.

Course Schedule

TBA - a few out-of-class meetings & movie viewing nights will be planned in conjunction with the ART 305 Travel in Psychology class

ART 307 Travel Photo	Topics	assignments readings TBA
week 1 Jan 28, 30	intro to course/ travel tips, gear, & research/ basic photo edits	research journaling techniques; Photoshop exercises
week 2 Feb 3, 5	camera controls & effects photo techniques	bring camera to class find PDF of Camera <i>Advanced User Guide</i> photo shoot exercises
week 3 Feb 10, 12	composition; field trip	bring camera
week 4 Feb 17, 19	selecting & editing photos/ intro to artist statements in class critique	Photoshop exercises portfolio 1 due - 10 images
Week 5 Feb 24, 26	avoiding technical flaws/ editing photos	photo shoot exercises; sharing best cell phone apps; journal preparation - research locations
week 6 March 2, 4	selecting & editing photo/ "in process" critique	portfolio 2 due - 10 images
week 7 March 9, 11	preparing for the trip/ review of all on-location assignments	journal with research due;
Spring Break Travel March 12-20	see itinerary below	packing light will win you a prize SD card
week 8 March 23, 25	review & selection of images from trip	bring all disks, download to H drive finishing visual journals
week 9 March 30	editing final photos/ critique of journals	compiling final trip portfolio
week 10 April 6, 8	editing final photos	compiling final trip portfolio scanning journal pages
week 11 April 13, 15 <i>Monday Easter holiday</i>	in lieu of Final: slide show & exhibition of student work with reception	

SPRING BREAK TRIP to London and Amsterdam

STUDY ABROAD ASSOCIATION www.studyabroadassociation.com

Program Itinerary *(subject to changes due to unforeseen circumstances)*

Day 1 - TH, March 12th - Departure

Depart for London, England

Day 2 - F, March 13th - London

(All students)

Arrive London, England

Transfer to Accommodation, Check In

- Relax & Refresh

The group will become oriented with their neighborhood, the public transportation systems, nearby pharmacies, markets, ATMs, etc. Additionally, an in-depth safety briefing will be provided for what to do in case of an emergency)

Hop On Hop Off London Bus Tour - *(Explore the city by bus, this tour gives you 360 views of London with open-top buses and unlimited hop-on, hop-off access).*

Lunch Time

London Welcome Dinner - *(The group will be taken for an authentic dinner with a wide variety of menu options to cater all diets).*

Day 3 - Sat, March 14th - London

(All Students)

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Train from London to Beckenham

Visit the Bethlam Museum of the Mind and Gallery - *(records the lives and experience and celebrates the achievements of people with mental health problems).*

Lunch Time

Return to London from Beckenham

Wellcome Collection - *(Museum connecting science, medicine, life and art)*

Jack The Ripper Walking Tour - *(walk the streets where this infamous killer stalked his victims)*

Day 4 - Sun, March 15th - London

this is the only day the group will split into 2 groups

Psych. students: Breakfast & Day Briefing

Freud's House Museum, *(Museum dedicated to Sigmund Freud)*

Free Time & Cultural Immersion

Art students: Breakfast & Day Briefing

Kew Gardens - Palm House, Temperate House, Treetop Walkway.

Lunch Time,

St. Paul Cathedral Visit (or) Winchester-Cathedral

Free Time to Explore London's best Museums

Day 5 - M, March 16th - London/ Amsterdam

(All students)

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Departure to Amsterdam

Airport Pick Up,

Check In - Relax & Refresh

Amsterdam Historical & Cultural Walking Tour

Free Time & Cultural Immersion

Day 6 - T, March 17th - Amsterdam

{All students)

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Van Gogh Museum visit

Lunch Time

Anne Frank House

Free Time & Cultural Immersion

Day 7 - W, March 18th - Amsterdam

{All students)

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Cheese Museum Visit - *(Experience the unique flavor of the best cheese of Holland Learn more about Dutch cheese)*

Lunch Time

Red Light District Walking Tour

Free Time & Cultural Immersion

Day 8 - TH, March 19th - Amsterdam

{All Students)

Breakfast & Day Briefing

Rijksmuseum Museum Visit *(Dutch art and history from the Middle Ages to the present day)*

Lunch Time

Bloemenmarkt Flower Market - *(Founded in 1862, a beautiful and touristy flower market floating on the Singel/ canal in central Amsterdam)*

Farewell Dinner & Program Closing

Day 9 - F, March 20th - Amsterdam

{All Students)

Breakfast & Airport Transfer

Departure to the US