



## **PHO 1301: Photography Appreciation COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020**

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Leigh Merrill, Associate Professor of Art  
**Office Location:** Journalism Building, Room 300  
**Office Hours:** 12:30 – 3:30pm Thursday (by skype appointment)  
**University Email Address:** leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** email  
**Communication Response Time:** 24 – 48 hours during weekdays

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

*Photography Changes Everything*, Marvin Heiferman, Aperture/Smithsonian Institute, 2012

*The Nature of Photographs*, Stephen Shore, Phaidon, 2012 edition

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Additional Readings may be included during the semester.

### **Course Description**

This course examines the relationship between photography and contemporary culture. Special attention is given to photography's influence in a range of disciplines from visual art to pop culture to social issues. Three semester hours.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Students will be able to understand the varied uses of photography in contemporary culture.
2. Students will be able to critically analyze and evaluate of photographic images.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

3. Students will be able to effectively develop and understanding how ideas are expressed through photographic images.
4. Students will have a greater understanding of the ways photographic images engage in global communities and affect social issues and change.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will consist of a series of readings, group discussions and exercises to assist you in achieving the objectives of this course. Each class will consist of a combination of some or all of the following activities:

- Lectures by instructor
- Discussion and presentations of readings about photography
- Group exercises and activities about the use, production, and understanding of photographic images
- Exams and quizzes

### **Assignments, Quizzes, Exams:**

The Following Assignments will be used for students to gain a foundation of knowledge within the core curriculum components of **Critical Thinking skills** (through analysis of readings, lectures, ideas), **Communication skills** (through interpretation and expression of ideas in oral, written, and visual methods), **Teamwork** (through group assignments), and **Social Responsibility** (through readings about photography's relationship to social issues across cultures and countries).

### **Quizzes and Exams:**

Quizzes and exams will cover reading topics and lectures. Quizzes and exams may include multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, and essays.

### **Readings and Class Assignments**

Students will discuss or complete assignments about key points from the readings. Students will be asked to present their analysis to the group or to the instructor.

### **Descriptive Essay**

Students will write a descriptive essay of 500-750 words about one photograph. Students will describe the formal qualities of the photograph, the intention of the photograph, the current and historical context of the photograph, and their own reactions to the photograph. Students will properly cite any sources used for this essay.

### **Photographic Journal**

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Students will keep a photographic journal throughout the semester of images they find in print or online that inspire, excite, surprise, or make them think about something in unexpected way. Beginning on week 2 and ending on week 13, students will create one journal entry each week. Each journal entry should include the photograph, the name of the photographer, where the photograph was found (which publication, which website, etc), and a one sentence to one paragraph description of why the student selected that photograph.

### **Group Forum**

Students will work in small online groups to gain a more thorough understanding of a photographer's practice. Each group will be given a single photographer to research and discuss in an online forum.

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Participation in class is critical to your success in this course. This course also has weekly assignments and projects. Regularly logging into D2L where students will find and turn in assignments, readings, and quizzes and exams.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

### **Assessments**

Exams: 30% (Mid-term 15%, Final 15%)

Quizzes: 10%

Photographic Journaling 15%

Essay: 15%

Group Forum: 10%

Readings | Exercises: 20%

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

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LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

**Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

Please contact me through email.

**Email:** [leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu](mailto:leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu)

**Office Hours:** 12:30 – 3:30pm Thursday (via skype appointment)

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# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies

### Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments

*Due Date:* All assignments and exercises are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Any work that is late will be reduced by one full-letter grade. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than one week late.

### Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class and is important for your success in this course. Please contact the instructor in advance of any absence. Work missed for an excused absence can be turned in at the first class following the absence.

**Please Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings will result in a failing grade ("F") for the course and you will be dropped from the class.**

## Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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## **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

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Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

### Module I: What is a photograph?

#### Week 1

- 1/14: Introductions / Review of Syllabus  
**Lecture:** Intro to Photography Appreciation
- 1/16: **Introduce:** Photo Journaling assignment  
**Lecture:** Photographic vocabulary

#### Week 2

- 1/21: **Group in-class exercise:** Camera Obscura
- 1/23: **Lecture:** Photographic processes

#### Week 3

- 1/28: **In-class exercise:** Photographic processes
- 1/30: **In-class exercise:** Photographic processes

#### Week 4

- 2/4: **Class Cancelled**
- 2/6: **Lecture/Discussion:** The Nature of Photographs, Stephen Shore

#### Week 5

- 2/11: **In-class exercise:** Describing photographs
- 2/13: **Introduce:** Photo Essay  
**Quiz 1**

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## Module II: Photography and Reality

### Week 6

**2/18:** **Lecture:** Photography and Truth

**2/20:** **Breakout session/in-class exercise:** truth and fiction in photography

**Readings:**

*Photography Changes What We Are Willing to Believe*, Hany Farid, 32-33

*Photography Changes What We Long to See*, David Haberstick, 34 – 36

*Photography Changes What We Expect “Reality” Will Look Like*, Jos Stam, 52- 55

### Week 7

**2/25:** **Lecture and Reading Discussion:** Iconic Images and cultural memory

**Readings:** Selected Readings from *Photography After Frank*, Philip Gafter

*Photographic Icons: Fact, Fiction, or Metaphor?* Page 52-55. (available on D2L)

*Photography Changes What and Who We Desire*, Lois W. Banner, *Photography Changes Everything*, 26 – 28

*Photography Changes Our Desire for Celebrity and Glamour*, Amy Henderson,

*Photography Changes Everything*, 37 - 39

**In-class exercise**

**2/27:** **Lecture:** Constructed Realities

### Week 8

**3/3:** Quiz 2

## Module III: Photographic Documents

**3/5:** **Lecture:** Photojournalism

### Spring Break

**3/9 – 3/13**

**Week 9: Reading Worksheet**

**3/16 – 3/20 Readings:**

Photojournalism from *Photography After Frank*, Philip Gafter

*Photography Changes Our Awareness of Poverty*, Bonnie Yochelson, 105-107

*Photography Changes How News is Reported*, Fred Ritchin, 177 – 178

### Week 10

**3/23 – 3/27 Reading Worksheet: The Personal Document**

**Readings:**

TBA

Mid-term review will be available online

### Week 11

**3/30 – 4/3 Mid-term exam**

## Module IV: Photography and Time, Photography and Science

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**Week 12**  
**4/6 – 4/10** Photography and Time  
**Reading Worksheet:**  
TBA

**Week 13**  
**4/13 – 4/17** Photography and Science  
**Reading Worksheet:**  
TBA

**Week 14**  
**4/20 – 4/24** **Essay Due**  
Small online group discussion on an individual photographer

**Week 15**  
**4/27 – 5/1** Small online group discussion on an individual photographer  
Final Exam Review will be available online

**Week 16:** **Final Exam**