



PHO 1301: Photography Appreciation

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leigh Merrill, Associate Professor of Art

Office Location: Journalism Building, Room 300

Office Hours: 9:30 – 11:00a.m. Thursday (and by 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

2. Students will be able to critically analyze and evaluate of photographic images.
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 the learning management system, using Microsoft Word, presentation programs such as PowerPoint or Google Slides.

Instructional Methods

This course will consist of a series of lectures, readings, group discussions and exercises to assist you in achieving the objectives of this course. Each week's activities 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 sources used for this essay.

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Photographic Journal

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.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Participation in class is critical to your success in this course. This course has weekly assignments and projects. Regularly logging into D2L will be necessary to find and turn in assignments, readings, 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: 20%

Photographic Journaling 15%

Essay: 15%

Group Forum: 10%

Exercises/Discussions: 10%

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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

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

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.

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me through email.

Email: leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Thursday (and by appointment)

Office hours will be held via zoom meeting.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

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.

Module I: What is a photograph?

Week 1

Intro to Photography Appreciation; Introduction to Photo Journaling assignment, Photographic vocabulary

Week 2

Photographic processes, Quiz

Week 3

Describing photographs, group discussion

Week 4

The Nature of Photographs discussion, Quiz

Module II: Photography and Reality

Week 5

Photography and Truth lecture and quiz

Readings:

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

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

Photography Changes What We Expect "Reality" Will Look Like, Jos Stam, 52- 55

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Week 6

Iconic Images and cultural memory lecture and quiz

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

Week 7

Constructed Realities lecture and quiz

Week 8

Mid-term exam

Module III: Photographic Documents

Week 9:

Photojournalism intro lecture

Week 9:

Photojournalism lecture and quiz

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

The Personal Document lecture and quiz

Readings:

TBA from *Photography Changes Everything*

Week 11

The Personal Document lecture and quiz

Readings:

TBA from *Photography Changes Everything*

Module IV: Photography and Time, Photography and Science

Week 12

Photography and Time lecture and quiz

Readings:

TBA from *Photography Changes Everything*

Week 13

Photography and Science lecture and quiz

Readings:

TBA from *Photography Changes Everything*

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Week 14

Essay Due

Small online group discussion on an individual photographer

Week 15

Small online group discussion on an individual photographer

Week 16: Final Exam