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## **PHO 1301: Photography Appreciation**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Leigh Merrill, Associate Professor of Art

**Office Location:** Journalism Building, Room 300

**Office Hours:** 10:00 – 11:00am T&R (and by appointment via zoom)

**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

Additional Readings will be provided 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:

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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.
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**

TAMUC's d2L Brightspace learning management system, text editing software, basic internet skills such as browser navigation and searching.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will consist of a series of lectures, readings, group discussions and assignments 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
- Readings
- Discussions
- individual assignments
- Exams

### **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 ideas from readings, lectures, and discussions), **Communication skills** (through interpretation and expression of ideas in the group discussions and essay), **Teamwork** (through group discussion), and **Social Responsibility** (through readings about photography's relationship to social issues across cultures and countries).

#### **Exams (worth 20% of overall grade):**

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

#### **Discussions (worth 20% of overall grade):**

Students will participate in group online discussions about key points from the readings and lectures.

#### **Assignments (worth 20% of overall grade):**

Students will participate in weekly assignments about key points from the readings and lectures. Assignment may take the form of written responses and open book quizzes.

#### **Descriptive Essay (worth 20% of overall grade):**

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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.

**Photography journal (worth 20% of overall grade):**

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 1 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, and one paragraph description of why the student selected that photograph.

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

Active class participation is critical to your success in this course. This course has weekly readings, lectures, and videos, in addition to weekly discussions, assignments, and projects that engage these readings and videos. It is essential to schedule time to engage in the course material before participating in the assignments and discussions. Regularly logging into D2L will be necessary to complete this course.

**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**

- Discussions: 20%
- Quizzes and Reading Assignments: 20%
- Photographic Journaling 20%
- Essay: 20%
- Exams: 20%

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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](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>

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## Interaction with Instructor Statement

### Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me through email.

**Email:** leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

**Office Hours:** 10:00 – 100:00 am T&R (and by appointment)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments

*Due Date:* All assignments, discussion, and projects 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.

*Exams:* Exams will be made available for several days for students to complete. Please note that exams will not be accepted 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>

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

### **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](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/>

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## **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. 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.

## **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events 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.

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## **Module I: What is a photograph?**

### **Week 1**

Intro to Photography Appreciation; Introduction to Photo Journaling assignment, Intro to Module 1, Discussion Group

### **Week 2**

Photographic vocabulary lecture  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments, Quiz

### **Week 3**

Photographic processes lecture  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments, Quiz

### **Week 4**

Reading a photograph lecture  
Assignment, Discussion Group

### **Week 5**

Context Matters lecture  
Assignment, Discussion Group

## **Week Module II: Photography and Reality**

### **Week 6: Photography and Truth**

#### **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

Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

### **Week 7: 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

Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

### **Week 8: Constructed Realities lecture**

Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

### **Week 9: Mid-term**

### **Week 10: Making a photograph.**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*



## **Module III: Photographic Documents**

### **Week 11: Photojournalism**

Photojournalism from *Photography After Frank*, Philip Geffer  
*Photography Changes Our Awareness of Poverty*, Bonnie Yochelson, 105-107  
*Photography Changes How News is Reported*, Fred Ritchin, 177 – 178  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

### **Week 12: The Personal Document**

#### **Readings:**

*Photography Changes Our Life Stories*, Marvin Heiferman, 127 – 129  
*Photography Changes How Cultural History is Told*, Lonnie Bunch, 115 – 117  
*Photography Changes How We Record and Respond to Social Issues*, Frank H Goodyear, III, 160 – 162  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

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

### **Week 13: Photography, Time and Science**

#### **Readings:**

*Photography Changes Our Awareness of Global Issues and Responsibilities*, Subhankar Banerjee, 64- 66  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

### **Week 14: Photography, Time and Science**

#### **Readings:**

*Photography Changes Our Relationship to Our Planet*, Steward Brand, 67-68  
*Photography Changes Medical Diagnosis and Treatment*, Michael P. Kelly, 81-83  
*Photography Changes Natural Phenomena into Iconic Images*, Kenneth G. Libbrecht, 84-86  
*Photography Changes What We Can See in the Universe*, Giovanni G. Fazio, 71 – 72  
Discussion Group, Individual Assignments due

## **Module V: Finale**

### **Week 15: Essay Due**

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