



PHO 1301: Photography Appreciation

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leigh Merrill, Associate Professor of Art

Office Location: Wathena Fine Art Building, Room 223

Office Hours: 12:00 – 1:50am T (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

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

The Nature of Photographs, Stephen Shore, Phaidon, 2010

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

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.
3. Students will be able to effectively develop and understanding how ideas are expressed through photographic images.

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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:

- Video Lectures
- Readings
- Discussions
- Individual assignments
- Quizzes
- 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):

Mid-term and Final Exams will cover reading topics and lectures and may include multiple choice questions, fill in the blank questions, and written responses.

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):

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

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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 12, 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, videos, discussions, quizzes, and assignments. Weekly material and coursework will be available at 12:00am on Mondays and (unless otherwise noted), will be due the following Sunday at 12:00pm. 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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>

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

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Please contact me through email.

Email: leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: 12:00 – 1:50 am T (and by appointment)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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>

<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 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

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.

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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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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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

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Week 2

Photographic vocabulary lecture

Discussion Group, Individual Assignment, vocabulary quiz

Readings: The Nature of Photographs, The physical level

Week 3

Photographic processes lecture

Discussion Group, Individual Assignment, photographic processes quiz

Readings: The Nature of Photographs, The depictive level

Week 4

The Nature of Photographs lecture

Individual Assignment: Nature of Photographs, Nature of Photographs quiz

Readings: The Nature of Photographs, The mental level and mental modeling

Week 5

Intention Matters, Photographic Approaches lecture

Individual Assignment

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 Assignment

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 Assignment

Week 8: Constructed Realities lecture

Discussion Group, Individual Assignment

Week 9: Making photographs

Week 10: Mid-term

Module III: Photographic Documents

Week 11: Photojournalism

Photojournalism from *Photography After Frank*, Philip Gafter

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Photography Changes Our Awareness of Poverty, Bonnie Yochelson, 105-107
Photography Changes How News is Reported, Fred Ritchin, 177 – 178
Discussion Group, Individual Assignment

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 Assignment

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 Assignment

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 Assignment

Module V: Finale

Week 15: Essay Due

Week 16: Final Exam