### THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE

Anthropology 325

photography is not best understood as a particular art or medium, but rather in terms of the form of the image it produces. . .

Peter Osborne<sup>1</sup>

#### Overview.

This course applies concepts and practices from visual ethnography to the study of memory, place, and everyday life. The course aims at developing counter-intuitive and subversive approaches to practices of looking (observation) and techniques of representation. Whereas photographs are often taken to be archival technologies, we will invert this idea and explore how images can be transient and ephemeral by focusing on sites of encounter and orders of engagement. This course is organized as a split theory/hands-on exploration of the image and image-making. At all points in the course students are drawn into the use of image-making as an interpretive and critical engagement with course readings. We will begin with techniques of visual inquiry established by visual anthropologists, documentarians, and artists working on the margins of documentary traditions. This course will work primarily with still images.

Students will be expected to have at their disposal a camera (digital or analogue).

The class is organized into weekly lectures and labs. The entire class meets for Tuesday (3:30-5:30 pm) seminars. These seminars will consist of lectures and discussions. Friday labs meet for one hour each in the Intermedia Workshop (4.120). The labs will focus on individual and collaborative labor in a workshop setting.

The goal of this course is to learn about the history of Visual Anthropology and to gain skills in using photographic methods in research.

Anthropology 325 (31205, 31210, 31215)

Lectures: T 3:30 – 5:30pm (SAC 4.174)

Lab: F 1000 1100/ F 1100 1200/ F 1200 1300 (SAC 4.120)

Website: www.metafactory.ca/ant325

Prof. Craig Campbell
Dept. of Anthropology
SAC Building 4.122
Office Hours. By appointment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (2010) Infinite exchange: the social ontology of the photographic image. *Philosophy of Photography*, 1 (1). pp. 59-68. ISSN 2040-3682

#### Materials.

There are two books required for this course: Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method and Photography: A Very Short Introduction.

Collier, John, Jr., and Malcolm Collier. 1986. *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method*. Revised and expanded. University of New Mexico Press.

Edwards, Steve. 2006. *Photography: a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

The two books are available for purchase at

Monkey Wrench Books. 110 E. North Loop www.monkeywrenchbooks.org Monday thru Friday: 11am - 8pm Saturday and Sunday: 12pm - 8pm

Additional readings will be assigned and shared as library references or digital files (pdfs). These will be made available with advance notice.

## Assessment and grading.

Evaluation in this class is based on attendance, participation, and my evaluation of your assignments. A rough guide to the breakdown of the valuation of each assignment is below:

- Participation 15 points
- Reading and photography reports (10 in total) 50 points
- Final project 35 points

Grades for each component will be given in points. Violations of the Code of Student Behaviour can result in failing grades.

Late assignments will not be accepted unless there are viable reasons, such as an illness (physician's note required) or an Act of Vengeful God (like a tornado, hurricane, storm of frogs, rain of blood, or a blizzard). Late assignments will be marked down by two points for every day they are late. For example, an assignment that is worth 20 points to your final grade will receive a maximum of 18 if it is handed in one day late. It will receive a maximum of 16/20 if it is handed in two days late, etc.

Plus and minus grades will not be used for final course grades.

*Final Project:* The final project will consist of two components. One is a portfolio and the other is a presentation. Both presentations and portfolios are due on November 30.

# Attendance Policy.

Attendance for Tuesday lectures is expected and is mandatory for Friday lab sections. Students with two or more unexcused absences from the lab sections will have their final evaluation reduced by at least one letter grade.

Readings, assignments, and topics are subject to change (with reasonable notice), reflecting the general pace of student/instructor progress in this class.

### Notices.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code: <a href="http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html">http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html</a>)

"By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence."

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050

Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: <a href="https://www.utexas.edu/emergency">www.utexas.edu/emergency</a>