THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE

This is a preliminary syllabus.
Critical information will be posted and updated
on Canvas and at www.metafactory.ca/ant325

Spring 2016
ANT 325J • 31325-31330

Class: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:30pm - 1:30pm. SAC 4.118
Labs: Fridays: 10am-noon; 1pm – 3pm. SAC 4.120

Instructor: Craig Campbell
Teaching Assistant: Alejandro Flores Aguilar
Office hours: Wednesdays between 2:00-3:30pm. SAC 4.122

Firearms are not welcome in this class. If you own a gun, leave it at home.

Photo: Mary Ellen Mark

Reality is always extraordinary. Mary Ellen Mark
THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE

Course Description

"The Photographic Image" applies concepts and practices from visual ethnography to the study of memory, place, and everyday life. The course aims at developing approaches to practices of looking and techniques of representation. Whereas photographs are often taken to be archival and documentary technologies, we will invert this idea and explore how images can be transient and ephemeral by focusing on sites of encounter and codes of engagement. In our critical approach we consider both production and reception.

The class is planned around a number of photo-based projects. You will be required to read for these projects and undertake original photography assignments. 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. Students are expected to engage fully in both individual and group activities.

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

Required Readings


In addition to this text, I assign articles throughout the semester and posting them to Canvas.

Learning Goals

In general, there are a number of critical things that I think you should learn in this course. As the title suggests the idea and practice of photography are central. This is not a photography course that you would take in a Fine Arts or Journalism program; understanding the differences in these disciplines is a key learning goal. You will be
using your camera in a form of practice-based learning. As we study photography you will be using your own photographs and camera to extend your inquiry and hone your critical eye.

You will develop a flexible and extensible skill set that will allow you to read photographic theory and history, look at and think about photographs as a form of visual culture, and think about the ways that photographs are apprehended by people in the everyday. Reading and writing are critical components to this practice of visual anthropology.

**Note:**

All information in this syllabus is subject to change. Students will be given reasonable and explicit notice for all changes to the syllabus.

**Grades & Assignments**

Class participation = 20%
Presentation = 20%
Projects = 60%

**Assignments:**

Presentations (formal). In-class presentations are a critical component of this course. You will be evaluated on your preparation and your presentation. The presentations should be polished, intelligent, and coherent.

Projects. All projects require you to take photographs. They also require you to read assigned materials and undertake abbreviated research.

Participation. Class attendance and participation is mandatory. If you plan to miss class contact me in advance. Absences, late arrivals, early departures can count against you in your participation grade. Part of your participation grade will also include informal presentations and workshops. You are required to hand in a production journal for evaluation on the last day of class. The production journal should be a one or two-inch, three-ring binder with dividers for each of the five projects. You should also keep reading notes and presentation notes in the production journal. It is essential that you bring the production journal to all classes (especially labs).
University Notices and Policies

Documented Disability Statement

- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

Notice regarding academic dishonesty

- Honor Code or statement of ethics.
  - University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
- Explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism

- Web site for more information: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism

Religious Holy Days

- 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, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

- If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal

Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin

- The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.
  - Sanger Learning and Career Center: http://lifelearning.utexas.edu/
  - Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
  - Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/
  - Career Exploration Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/
  - Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/

course website: http://metafactory.ca/ant325