

## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

ARTS 4373-01

3 Credit Hours

Fall Semester, 2017

<b><i>Class Location:</i></b>	AB3 #104
<b><i>Class Meeting Times:</i></b>	TTH 12:30 – 3:20
<b><i>Instructor:</i></b>	Prof Becky Finley
<b><i>Office Location:</i></b>	Huntsville Campus, AB3 #114C
<b><i>Instructor Contact Information:</i></b>	(936) 294-3418
	E-Mail: bfinley@SHSU.EDU
<b><i>Office Hours:</i></b>	TTR 11:30 – 12:30 or by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of contemporary photographic trends. The work of photographers who are currently having an impact on fine art photography will be discussed along with critical analysis of art theory. Students will be expected to complete a body of photographic work that demonstrates personal conceptual development. Writing Enhanced.

### **Course Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

1. The ability to complete a body of photographic work (about 20 images) focused on topics of students choosing.
2. The ability to produce exhibition quality digital photographic prints using Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and pigment printers.
3. The ability to produce images that demonstrate an understanding of proper photographic exposure (using manual settings for shutter speed, aperture, ISO)
4. The ability to use basic elements of composition in a photograph.
5. The ability to discuss the work of contemporary photographers, classmates, and personal projects.
6. The ability to represent an idea through a photograph.

### **Text**

No textbook is required for this class, however there will be multiple reading assignments and handouts. Students are responsible for reading all assigned material and be prepared to discuss in class. Students maybe asked to complete short writtenn respoonses to these articles.

### **Suggested Books**

*Post-Photography The Artist with a Camera* by Robert Shore

*Photography: A Critical Introduction* edited by Liz Wells

*The Photograph as Contemporary Art* by Charlotte Cotton

*On Photography* by Susan Sontag

### **Supplies**

1. SLR Camera (digital or film) with manual capabilities (ie. ability to change shutter speed, aperture, and ISO).

2. Film and/or digital storage media.
3. Sketch Book or Journal
4. Epson 8.5" x 11" (or larger) photo quality paper (surface of your choice). **All paper that is not Epson must be approved by Becky or a labby.**
5. Macbook Pro with Adobe Photoshop CC and Lightroom.
6. Various supplies for presentation may also be required.

***\*Students must personally print all images that are submitted for grading. Prints must be produced in digital darkroom (AB3 104) unless approved by instructor.***

### **Attendance Policy**

SHSU policy states that "regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student." In order for you to succeed in this course, you must come to class and participate. Students are responsible for all material covered in their absence. **After three absences, your final grade will be lowered a full letter for each additional absence.** It is essential for the success of the class that students participate in class discussions, critiques, and presentations. Missing class, arriving late, constantly looking at your phone, and failure to participate in discussions will result in a lowered final course grade. **You must be present with your work and stay for the duration of crit days in order to get full credit for your assignments.**

### **Grading Policy**

Please review the following criteria:

<b>A = 90 – 100</b>	Super Amazing and excellent! A's are given to students who go the extra mile. Simply completing the assignments will not result in an A. In order to get an A in this class, students are expected to be working throughout the semester, participate in class discussions, and present work regularly in critiques. This work should demonstrate strong technical and conceptual development.
<b>B = 80 – 89</b>	Well above average - completion of all assignments and work strong work shows progress and conceptual development.
<b>C = 70 – 79</b>	Average. Complete. Competent. Most photos are average.
<b>D = 60 – 69</b>	Below average work. Incomplete assignments and/or failure to show progress will result in a D.
<b>F = 0 – 59</b>	Unacceptable work for a college student.

- Please note that all visual art is subjective, however you will learn to honestly judge your own work. Always ask yourself whether or not you have put your best effort into your work. Can you do better? **All grades are non negotiable.**
- Keep in mind you are not being graded on how much the instructor "likes" you. You are being graded on the quality and progress of your work.
- Remember that critique is an important part of the learning process. You are not being judged as a person. The quality of your work, both technically and conceptually, is being evaluated.

### **Course Requirements / Assignments/Final Grade Calculations:**

#### **Photography Works in Progress Crits**

Students will have a minimum of 5 critiques of work in progress. Students are expected to make work dealing with personal content and ideas. Some crits will be digital and some will be printed. These critiques should be used as a way of flushing out ideas and getting feedback from your peers. Work does

not have to be in a finished form to be shown during works in progress crits. All works in progress crit grades will be averaged together resulting in a final crit grade. = 30%

### **Midterm**

Midterm critiques should consist of 8 -10 prints of the best work produced up to that point in the semester. Rough drafts of artist statements are also due at this time. = 10 %

### **Final Crit / Portfolio**

During the final class, students are expected to produce 15 – 20 final prints presented in class along with the finished version of artist statements. = 10 %

### **Artist Statement**

At the end of the semester, each student is expected to turn in an artist statement or reflection of artistic progress achieved during the semester. This statement should be about **450 – 500 words**. If you are in ARTS 4315 this semester, you may not double dip your artist statement. You must write a reflection on your progress or a different artist statement. = 10 points %

### **Writing Assignments**

Students will be given in-class and take home writing assignments throughout the semester. Most responses should be at least 125 words and contain thoughtful, critical responses to contemporary photography. These assignments will be averaged together resulting in a final writing grade. = 35 %

### **Class Participation**

We will be looking at contemporary art and photography each week. At the beginning of each lecture class, an open forum will be held in which students can show and discuss any research they may have found relevant to class. These discussions will allow students to lead the conversation and promote further investigation into topics of their choice. It is essential for the success of the class that students participate in class discussions, critiques, and presentations. = 5%  
100 %

### **Make Up policy**

Late work will not be accepted without medical documentation.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#)

***All work must be your own, generated by you alone and it must be completed this semester for this course. Any violation of these policies will result in an F for the semester. No DOUBLE DIPPING!***

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination.

Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

### **Students Absent on Religious Holidays**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: </dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

### **Academic Grievance Policy**

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/bb0d849d-6af2-4128-a9fa-f8c989138491.pdf>

### **Visitor in the Classroom Policy**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### **Use of Cell Phone in Class Policy**

Cell phones must be **turned off** prior to the beginning of each class (**no texting**). You will be asked to leave and be counted absent if you are texting or taking calls in class. **Please use a sketchbook or notebook for taking notes.** Computer and cell phone screens are disruptive to both the instructor and other students during slide lectures and crits.

### **Classroom Demeanor Policy**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and thus, impedes the mission of the university. Students are prohibited from making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other non course related materials, sleeping, and talking to

other students at in appropriate times during class. Any inappropriate or disruptive behavior will result in a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### **Department of ART BFA Review**

The purpose of the BFA Review is to ensure that students have learned basic principles and techniques needed for advanced art courses.

All Art students must successfully complete all of the Art Foundation courses and the BFA Review before being accepted into a BFA program in Computer Animation, Photography, or Studio Art or Graphic Design. Graphic Design students must also pass a separate Graphic Design Review after the BFA Review.

The Art Foundation Courses are WASH, Drawing, and Foundations in Digital Art. (ARTS 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, & 2313). Students must pass each course with a grade of C or higher to take the BFA Review and proceed to upper level courses.

The semester after all of the Foundation courses are complete, students must sign up for the BFA Review. Students should see an art advisor every semester to ensure they take the BFA Review on time. It should be taken the semester immediately following the completion of the Foundation Courses.

Students who do not pass the BFA Review may re-take it the following semester. Students who do not pass on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue as BFA majors, but may follow the degree plan for the BA in Art. Non-participation after signing up or being advised to sign up will count as a failure of that semester's review.

Graphic Design students must pass the BFA Review, complete Principles of Graphic Design (ARTS 2323) and participate in a BFA Review at the end of the semester that they are enrolled in Typography (ARTS 3322).

For more information on the BFA review see the Department of art web page: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/review/>

### **Defacing University Property**

Defacing University property is prohibited by University policy. It is also a criminal offense. Students will be held responsible for the cost of damages to the facilities. Violations will be reported to University Police. Students should not paint on concrete, asphalt, trees, sides of buildings, interior walls or floors of buildings, locker doors, etc. When using any kind of paint use a drop cloth or tarp to protect the surface from overspray.

### **Department of ART Laptop Requirement**

Students in the Department of Art are required to own a laptop as specified by each BFA program. Macintosh laptops are strongly recommended and can be purchased at discounted rates for students. The specifications for each BFA program and links to the Apple Store can be found on the Department of Art website: <http://www.shsu.edu/academics/art/resources/laptop-initiative.html> . Students will be required to have laptops and the Adobe Creative Suite software in art courses that require computers. Laptops must meet or exceed the specifications described and be capable of interfacing with Department printers and other peripheral devices.

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## *Very Tentative Course Outline*

*Fall 2017*

*Finley*

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8/24	TH	Introduction Syllabus and Policies
8/29	TU	<b>*Review of Student's Past Work</b> Bring examples of your best work. You may bring digital files on a jump drive or actual objects.
8/31	TH	Discussion about images that move us – <b>bring in an image</b> of a photo that you have seen in the last three months that has inspired an emotional response. Discussion - Activism through Art and Photojournalism In your journal <b>write a response</b> to a photograph presented by a classmate.
9/5	TU	New Aesthetics part 1– Artists and Photographers Review of Photography in Place Exhibition <b>Write a response</b> to the Photography in Place Exhibition
9/7	TH	<b>Critique #1</b> Digital or Print (work in progress)
9/12	TU	Appropriation, Homage, and Stealing Discussion: Recycling the Past <b>Write a response</b> to the Photography and Appropriation
9/14	TH	Conceptual Photo / New Photography: Images & Discussion
9/19	TU	Identity and Culture in Contemporary Photography
9/21	TH	<b>Critique #2</b> Digital or Print (work in progress)
9/26	TU	Staged and Created Worlds: Discussion / Images Discussion Writing an Artist Statement
9/28	TH	Discussion: Passport to Trespass and the rise of the blog What does it mean to be internet famous
10/3	TU	Fashion and Content: Photographers who are pushing boundaries
10/5	TH	<b>Critique #3</b> Digital or Print (work in progress)
10/10	TU	New and Altered Realities: Images & Discussion
10/12	TH	Conceptual Photo / New Photography: Images & Discussion Journal entry: How do you feel about one image or artist from today's discussion?

10/17	TU	Work Day – Open Lab.
10/19	TH	<b>Midterm Print Crit / Artist Statement Rough Draft Due</b> In your journal <b>write a short</b> forward to a book about the work of one of your classmates.
10/24	TU	Discussion / Images: People, Places, Things pt.1 Write a response to the reading hand out
10/26	TH	Discussion / Images: Documenting the Everyday & Journalism
10/31	TU	Discussion / Slides: Fashion, Advertising, and Fine Art cont.
11/2	TH	<b>Critique #4</b> Digital or Print (work in progress) & Artists Statement Rough Draft
11/7	TU	Discussion / Images: What's the Future of Photo? Write a response to article / handout
11/9	TH	People, Places, Things pt.2
11/14	TU	New Aesthetics part 2– Artists and Photographers
11/16	TH	<b>Critique #5</b> Digital or Print (work in progress)
11/21	TU	WORK/RESEARCH DAY
11/23	TH	THANKSGIVING!
11/28	TU	Work Day – Open Lab
11/30	TH	<b>Final Print Crit = 15 – 20 Prints, Artist Statement, Journal, and jump drive containing all work for the semester.</b>