

# PHOTOETHNOGRAPHY

Fall 2017

Instructor: Jack Kugelmass

Wednesdays 9:35-12:30

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00

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## The Course

The purpose of this course to familiarize students with still photography and its uses for the study and documentation of individuals and social groups. The course will teach participants:

- How to evaluate photographs aesthetically
- How to read photographs
- How to tell stories as photo spreads
- How to photograph to illustrate text
- How to edit photographs digitally
- How to interview people
- How to do a life history
- How to do ethnography
- How to write as an ethnographer

Students will become familiar with critical theory, do classroom presentations on well-known photographers and photojournalists and workshop presentations of assigned subjects and final projects. The latter should be a photo ethnography of a group, setting or biography. It can be a term paper based on a particular photographer or photographic subject. Photographers include: Walker Evans, Robert Capa, Josef Sudek, Raymond Depardon, Sebastiao Salgado, Diane Arbus, Leonard Freed, Robert Frank, Andre Kertesz, Weegee, Greta Stern, Gary Winogrand, Eugene Atget, Gerda Taro, Lee Miller, Nan Goldin, Chim, Agnes Varda, Annie Liebowitz, Matthew Brady, Leni Reifenstahl, Margaret Bourke-White. This list is intended to get students started on people to look out for. There are any number of others who could be included as well. Ideally, students will focus on photographers relevant to their own geographic area or ethnic group of interest.

## Evaluation

Reading assignments require a one page response paper to be handed in at the beginning of the appropriate class. These will form 10% of the overall evaluation. Classroom presentations

constitute 40% of the evaluation. The final project constitutes 50% of the semester grade. The classroom presentations will be drawn from a list of photographers or subjects.

## FAQs

Do I need to know anything about photography to take this course? No.

Do I need to know anything about anthropology to take this course? No.

Do I need to have a camera for this course? Yes, but a smart phone will do.

If I want a camera which one should I buy? Almost anything sold today is good.

Should I buy a used digital camera? No.

Do I need a camera with a zoom lens? No.

Do I need one that takes interchangeable lenses? No.

Do you recommend a film camera? Only if you have access to a high-quality negative scanner.

Is a Polaroid suitable? No, because of the expense of the film.

Do I need to know PhotoShop? Elements will do or any other inexpensive photo correcting app.

## Nota Bene:

Downloading papers produced on the web or submitting work done by others is a serious infraction of proper student conduct. Please read and be familiar with the University of Florida's definition of, and policy, regarding plagiarism as described in the Code of Student Conduct. The first of many pages that outline students' responsibilities and obligations can be found at the following UF website. Please read it carefully:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>.

Intentional plagiarism of any source will result in a failing grade for the course. If you do not understand plagiarism or what constitutes it, please ask.

If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g., note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact the instructor **within the first two weeks of class**. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

## SYLLABUS

08/23 Introduction

08/30

Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*

09/06

Susan Sontag, *On Photography*

09/13

Pierre Bourdieu, *Photography A Middle-Brow Art*, pp13-98.

Walter Benjamin, *On Photography*, pp7-95.

09/20

Stuart Franklin, *The Documentary Impulse*

09/27

Alan Trachtenberg, *Reading American Photographs: Images as History Mathew Brady to Walker Evans*, pp71-118, 164-285.

10/04

Elizabeth Edwards, ed. *Anthropology and Photography: 1860-1920*, pp3-93, 122-136.

10/11

Vicki Goldberg, *The Power of Photography: How Photographs Changed Our Lives*, pp7-17, 135-161, 191-251.

10/18

Screening: *HaDirah*

10/25

Life History

11/01

Profession

11/08

Place

11/15

Group

11/22 Holiday

11/29

Projects

12/06

Projects