

Exploration of Photography - Ways of Seeing, Ways of Thinking

ART-290-004 (11941)

Instructor: Christina Price Washington

Class: [Date : Time], Rome

Office Hours: before and after class& by appointment

E-mail: cwashington@oglethorpe.edu

Office:

Overview

Study abroad often serves as a key experience and a turning point in your understanding of the world. This class is an effort to make sense of your study abroad stay; rather than creating photographs as mementos, you will make pictures that are unique to your stay in Rome, but still refer back to your life in general. It is not enough to point a camera at a tourist site or use it to make Facebook or Instagram images. You will be encouraged to view your new environment – not through the lens of an outsider viewing a novelty, but to give us, as viewers, special access to your world.

This class combines project development, photographic assignments, critiques and a survey of the history and theory of photography. You will engage with the medium of photography and the process of creating a coherent photographic project while at the same time learn about the development of photography and how your own pictures reference this. In class, our critiques will focus on intentionality and imbedded meaning in photography.

During the course of the semester, you will solve Photographic Challenges that will give you a chance to develop your photographic skills, explore and understand various approaches within photography. This will and get you closer to finding your photographic voice and approach to express yourself through the photograph. You will be challenged during this course, so your creativity, courage and curiosity is mandatory. This class may permit a cellphone for image capture, therefore it is not a class that demonstrates camera function.

Course Objectives

- You will gain a deeper understanding of the cultural impact of the medium of photography in a historical context and be able to locate your own work in relation to that tradition.
- You will become knowledgeable about the process of creating photographic images or conveying a certain stance with images in order to develop your own voice.
- You will develop a language of photographic critique – both of your own work and of others – and be able to thoughtfully describe the meaning of a photograph.
- You will generate a coherent photographic project and learn to develop a statement in which you concisely present your project.
- You will develop a new sensitivity to looking at the world through the lens of a camera.
- You will learn how to present your ideas through photographic documents and gain knowledge of technique, form and content

Class Format

The class meets twice weekly. Classes will alternate between A Day and B Day. A day classes will be technical with lectures and demonstrations of tools and techniques; some classes will encompass the history of photography with viewing of important works and artists. Critiques and viewing of student work will occur one a week, participation and articulation of viewings is expected, failure to attend a critique will result in 0 [zero] points. B day classes will be outside with consideration to conceptual parameters of exploration.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory, the class meets twice a week. 1 (one) absence will result in a lower letter final grade. Your final grade depends on your attendance and participation in this course. In short, to succeed and get the most from this class, you must come to class, and you must come prepared, ready to participate in discussions, and ready to engage with

scheduled activities and assignments in a serious and meaningful way.

LeadAbroad is committed to the academic integrity of our programs. All students participating in a for credit program (LEAD and GO) will be subject to academic and programmatic consequences for missing class. Excused absences are approved only if the student has

- a doctor's note that includes the diagnosis and confirmation that the student needed to be seen immediately
- a note from the program staff verifying a medical or personal emergency with the student

Programmatically, if a student misses 15% of their classes (1.5 absences) a notification will be sent to them and their emergency contact letting them know that they are on probation. More than 2 absences from a class (20% of program) will result in dismissal and an automatic failing grade.

Personal travel is not an excused absence. Students should review their course syllabi and reach out to LeadAbroad to confirm their class schedule before booking any personal travel. It is your responsibility to contact me in advance if a class must be missed for an emergency reason. The final critique on the scheduled exam day. This semester that falls on [Day, Month/Date from time pm time pm].

Course Rules

Just Four:

- Cell phones must be put away at all times. Laptops may be utilized only for the purpose of note taking. Any abuse of devices will result in their confiscation.
- Ear plugs out of your ear. I need to see you hear me.
- As this course does not rely on passive learning nor emphasize the regurgitation of facts, students are strongly advised to attend every session. It is expected that you will arrive on time to class and be prepared to critically discuss and engage any assigned materials.
- FOOD Absolutely No Food / eating during class time. (besides not to respect the class policies), the smell and sound of eating in the classroom is strictly undesired. Additionally, working with paper, food need not to be in contact with your paper/ work.

Course Requirements

Final Portfolio: The completion of a final portfolio is the center of the course; all the assignments build towards creation of a solid portfolio. It should comprise the finest photographs you have made during the semester. The portfolio should comprise your best photographs, perfectly printed on paper; we will discuss the choice and size of papers and consider the signifiers on how the work can be viewed. Size, sequence, and viewing experience should reflect intent of idea. * The final portfolio is due not later than DATE/TIME. A minimum of 20 photographs made during the current semester is required. You must take new photographs in response to each assignment. You cannot submit photographs from any past assignments. This is in violation of academic honesty and will be penalized with an F for any given assignment. To be clear, you cannot use images from a previous assignment in the class for a current assignment. Likewise, you cannot use images made in another class that may fit the current assignment. Further, you cannot use images made outside of any classes from the past that may fit the current assignment. All images submitted for each assignment must be generated only at the time of the assignment in the class. It is an honor code violation to pass off previous work as current work.

Course Assignments There will be four (4) assignments, due on the day indicated below, to be discussed openly as a class. It should be stressed from the beginning that critiques are not public grading sessions, but are; rather, opportunities to speak and to listen about the ways that photographs work and do not work. Every attempt will be made to address each portfolio presented. It is essential that everyone attends and participates in critiques. Failing to come to a critique equals a "0" zero for the assignment. Work must be ready to be hung and ready for discussion at the beginning of the class.

Printing at this time is unacceptable.

Each assignment is to be delivered with a self-reflection, due at critique. The self-reflection log makes 50% of the assignments grade. No late submission is accepted. Self-Reflection logs and Individual key terms assignments will be posted on Moodle and submitted through Moodle's Assignments function. Important note: Moodle will not accept assignments that are uploaded after the deadline, so remember to upload your work before class begins on the due date.

Key terms assignments: Students will submit definitions for a list of key terms that are featured in the assigned reading. Individual key terms assignments will be posted on Moodle and submitted through Moodle's Assignments function.

Important note: Moodle will not accept assignments that are uploaded after the deadline, so remember to upload your work before class begins on the due date.

Exams: There will be one exam held in this semester (see class schedule).

Readings: Each week readings will be assigned. Each reading requires Key terms to be uploaded prior to class.

- John Szarkowski. *The Photographers Eye*. MOMA. 1966.
- John Berger, Chapter 1 from *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin Books. 1972.
- Gerry Badger. *A tale of two portraits* from *The pleasures of good photographs*. Aperture. 2010
- Roland Barthes, selection from *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Hill and Wang. 1981.
- Gerry Badger. *Face to face* from *The Genius of Photography*. Quadrille Publishing Ltd. 2007.
- Charlotte Cotton. *Chapter 5: Intimate Life*. In *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*. Thames & Hudson. 2004.
- Stephen Shore, excerpt from *The Nature of Photographs*. Phaidon. 2007
- Abigail Solomon-Godeau. *Who Is Speaking Thus: Some Questions about Documentary Photography*. In *Photography at the Dock*. University of Minnesota Press. 1991.
- Henri Cartier-Bresson. *The Decisive Moment* from *The Mind's Eye*. Aperture. 1999.
- Susan Sontag. *Regarding the pain of others*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2003.
- Susan Sontag. *In Platos Cave* from *On photography*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 1977.

****[Presentations:** Students are to choose a project / body of work from the selected photographer. It is important that the student presentation is about their work and not their life story. Students are to prepare a presentation [10-15 photographs]. Presentations are about the photographer's work, their intention, idea, photographic approach and presenter's interpretation of it. Presentation is to engage entire class.]

Grading Rubric and Scale: If you attend every class without fail, if you perform every reading in advance, if you submit every assignment on time and in good faith, if you satisfy the expectations of the class on this most basic level, you should receive a "C" for the course. If, in addition to meeting these expectations, your work reflects a commitment to the exploration of the thoughts, ideas, and contributions offered by the class materials and by your peers, you should receive a "B" for this course. An "A" grade is reserved for students who demonstrate mastery of the various concepts and skills explored during the semester. These expectations are designed to reward any student willing to invest in the success of the class as a whole and are strongly oriented toward the recognition of student progress. Students will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. All work submitted must be wholly your own. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with policies outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.

*) recourses will show places to print your images

**) might be too much? Please advise

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	C+	77-79	F	59 and below
A-	90-92	C	73-76		
B+	87-89	C-	70-72		
B	83-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-82	D	60-66		

Assignments and Grading

Assignment #1	= 10
Assignment #2	= 10
Assignment #3	= 10
Assignment #4	= 10
Final	= 20
Class Participation	= 10
Exam	= 10
Key Terms	= 20 (5 each)

A = exceptional performance

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject

matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

B = good performance

Evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with course material.

C = adequate performance

General competence in the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; ordinary ideas treated in an ordinary manner.

D = Minimally acceptable performance

Some evidence of familiarity with the subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytical skills have been developed; substandard, superficial, or careless work.

F = Inadequate performance

Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; incoherent, illogical, or irrelevant use of evidence; not fulfilling the requirements of the assignment.

The following factors will be considered when determining a final grade: amount of effort expended, amount of progress made, significant growth and development, lateness, absences, and attendance. Late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade

Communication:

You **MUST** check your Oglethorpe email and Moodle account regularly; this will be our primary method of communication outside of the classroom. Important information regarding this course may come to you via your Moodle and/ or OU email account, and you are responsible for these communications. I respond to student email inquiries coming from the OU.edu system.

S/U: After 30 semester hours are earned at Oglethorpe, students in good standing may register to take two courses (in addition to internships and Science Seminar) on a satisfactory/ unsatisfactory basis. These courses cannot be taken in the same semester and cannot be used to satisfy requirements of the core or of the student's major or minor. Students must register for S/U designation by the end of the drop/add period.

I: This grade has the same effect as an "F" on the GPA. If a student is unable to complete work for a course on time for reasons of health, family tragedy or other nonacademic circumstances the instructor deems appropriate, the grade "I" may be assigned. If a student completes the work within thirty days of the last day of exams (of the semester in question), the instructor will evaluate the work and turn in a revised grade. Any "I" not changed by the professor within forty-five days of the last day of exams will automatically be changed to a grade of "F."

Retention of Work

Oglethorpe University has the right to retain any student project, whether it be for display, accreditation, documentation, or any other educational or legal purpose.

Student Evaluation

Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Oglethorpe University. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

All can is *Subject to Change*

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. With the exception of grading and attendance policies, deviations may be necessary and written notification of any changes will be provided.

OU Policies

Withdrawals and Incomplete Grades: Standard university policies on withdrawals/incompletes as outlined in the most current edition of the Bulletin apply to this course.

Disability Services: If you are a student with a disability or a disability-related issue and feel that you may need a reasonable accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of the course as listed in the syllabus, you are encouraged to contact Disability Services in the Academic Success Center by phone (404-364-8869) or via email (disabilityservices@oglethorpe.edu).

Academic Honesty: Persons who come to Oglethorpe University for work and study join a community that is committed to high standards of academic honesty. The honor code contains the responsibilities we accept by becoming members of the community and the procedures we will follow should our commitment to honesty be questioned.

The students, faculty and staff of Oglethorpe University expect each other to act with integrity in the academic endeavor they share. Members of the faculty expect that students complete work honestly and act toward them in ways consistent with that expectation. Students are expected to behave honorably in their academic work and are expected to insist on honest behavior from their peers.

Oglethorpe welcomes all who accept our principles of honest behavior. We believe that this code will enrich our years at the University and allow us to practice living in earnest the honorable, self-governed lives required of society's respected leaders.

Our honor code is an academic one. The code proscribes cheating in general terms and also in any of its several specialized sub-forms (including but not limited to plagiarism, lying, stealing and interacting fraudulently or disingenuously with the honor council). The Code defines cheating as "the umbrella under which all academic malfeasance falls. Cheating is any willful activity involving the use of deceit or fraud in order to attempt to secure an unfair academic advantage for oneself or others or to attempt to cause an unfair academic disadvantage to others. Cheating deprives persons of the opportunity for a fair and reasonable assessment of their own work and/or a fair comparative assessment between and among the work produced by members of a group. More broadly, cheating undermines our community's confidence in the honorable state to which we aspire."

The honor code applies to all behavior related to the academic enterprise. Thus, it extends beyond the boundaries of particular courses and classrooms *per se*, and yet it does not extend out of the academic realm into the purely social one.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

- 1.1 The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (including, for example, computers and mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.
- 1.2 Copying another person's work or participation in such an effort.
- 1.3 An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of a course with work other than one's original work for that course.
- 1.4 Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.
- 1.5 Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit (or has submitted) for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted, in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars of one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.
- 1.6 Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.
- 1.7 Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.
- 1.8 Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.
- 1.9 Plagiarism, which includes representing someone else's words, ideas, data or original research as one's own and in general failing to footnote or otherwise acknowledge the source of such work. One has the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism by taking adequate notes on reference materials (including material taken off the internet or other electronic sources) used in the preparation of reports, papers and other coursework.
- 1.10 Lying, such as: Lying about the reason for an absence to avoid a punitive attendance penalty or to receive an extension on an exam or on a paper's due date; fraudulently obtaining Petrel Points by leaving an event soon after registering one's attendance and without offering to surrender the associated Petrel Point, or by claiming fictitious attendance for oneself or another; forging or willfully being untruthful on documents related to the academic enterprise, such as on an application for an independent study or on a registration form.
- 1.11 Stealing, such as: Stealing another's work so that he/she may not submit it or so that work can be illicitly shared; stealing reserve or other materials from the library; stealing devices and materials (such as computers, calculators, textbooks, notebooks and software) used in whole or in part to support the academic enterprise.
- 1.12 Fraudulent interaction on the part of students with the honor council, such as: Willfully refusing to testify after having been duly summoned; failing to appear to testify (barring a *bona fide* last-minute emergency) after having been duly summoned; testifying untruthfully.

Students pledge that they have completed assignments honestly by attaching the following statement to each piece of work submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a course taken for academic credit: "I pledge that I have acted honorably." (Followed by the student's signature.) The honor code is in force for every student who is enrolled (either full- or part-time) in any of the academic programs of Oglethorpe University at any given time. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the provisions established in this code. The honor council has sole jurisdiction in matters of suspected academic dishonesty. Alternative ways of dealing with cases of suspected academic fraud are prohibited. In cases of alleged academic dishonesty on the part of students, the honor council is the final arbiter. The full Honor Code is Section 11 of the current University Bulletin.

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1 : A - DAY	Meet and greet Syllabus Supplies [Lecture external hard drive] Recourses* Slide Lecture	HW: Text to concept 1 Upload Key Terms
B - DAY	Meet discussion Text #1 Discussion Self-reflection	Finalize Images, get images printed for presentation

	Exploration of area considering textual information	
Week 2 : A - DAY	Meet Critique of week 1 work Self-reflection due Slide Lecture	HW: reading - alternative process Acquire supplies for alt process
B - DAY	Meet demonstration alternative process Exploration of area considering textual information Processing image(s)	Finalize Images, get images printed for presentation
Week 3 : A - DAY	Meet Critique of week 2 work Self-reflection due Artist Statement Writing Slide Lecture Exam	HW Reading: text #2 Upload Key Terms
B - DAY	Meet discussion Text #3 Exploration of area considering textual information	HW: Finalize Images, get images printed for presentation
Week 4 : A - DAY	Meet Artist statement due Critique of week 3 Self-reflection due Slide Lecture	HW: Finish Piece #3 Proposal for self-directed work Upload Key Terms
B - DAY	Meet discussion Text #4 Proposal due for self-directed project Exploration of area considering self-directed project	HW: Finalize Images, get images printed for presentation
Week 5 : A - DAY	Meet discussion Text #3 Exploration of area considering textual information Presentations One on one meetings if necessary	HW: prepare final portfolio and files artist statement Self-reflection Upload Key Terms
B - DAY	Final Critique Due: portfolio Artist statement Self-reflection	