

## The Photographic Image - Memory, Place and Everyday Life

*This is a preliminary syllabus. Critical information will be posted on the course website:*

[http://metafactory.ca/ant325\\_2009](http://metafactory.ca/ant325_2009)

Fall 2009

ANT 325L • 30492

**Instructor:** Craig Campbell

**Time:** Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3:30 PM-5:00 PM

**Location:** Benedict Hall (BEN) 1.102

**Office hours:** Wednesday 10am to 11am, or by appointment (EPS 4.128)

### *Pithy quote:*

“I always hope that people will find what I do interesting and that it will spark questions of their own. If my writing has any goal it is to show that the world is more interesting than we sometimes think it is and that it is more full of contingency and doubt” ([interview](#), 2007).

### *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 counter-intuitive and subversive approaches to practices of looking 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).

### *Grades & Assignments*

Class participation = 10%

Photo studies (2 small photo projects) = 20%

Scrapbook minor (2 scrapbook entries w/metacommentary) = 30%

Scrapbook major (final project; self-directed; written and visual components) = 40%

### ***Required Texts***

Barthes, Roland. 1981. *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. New York: Hill and Wang.

Highmore, Ben. 2002. *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. London and New York: Routledge.

*The missing text.* I was just informed that our third text is unavailable. This actually puts us in a very interesting position and opens up the possibility for something different. I will be assigning several additional articles throughout the semester (always with at least one-week notice). But we will also be incorporating a participatory learning element in selecting readings. This will come mid-semester when you will participate in small, shared interest groups and work to determine the direction of the course. *This will be done in consultation with me.* There are many aspects to photography and I am interested to give you the opportunity to draw in some of your own interests. You might be interested in war photography, fashion photography, art photography, photographic collectors, etc.

### **Learning Goals**

I have provided some learning goals here but they are all with caveats. In general though, 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 program. But we will be using our cameras. This will be a form of practice-based learning. As we study photography and photographic uses we will be using our own photographs and cameras to extend our inquiry.

We will develop a flexible and extensible skill set that will allow us to read photographic theory and history, look at and think about photographs as a form of visual culture, and most importantly think about the ways that photographs are apprehended by people in the everyday.

- Learn some history of photography
- Learn some photo-theory
- Learn some approaches or techniques for using photography as tool for research and analysis
- Learn about a variety of culturally specific uses of photography and photographs.

### **Note:**

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

## **Classroom Policies**

Information about plagiarism and the consequences of plagiarizing.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/faculty/plagiarism/preventing.html>

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

# **University Notices and Policies**

## **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.

## **Documented Disability Statement**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

## **Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin**

- The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.
- The UT Learning Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>
- 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/>

## **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

## **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>.

### **Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office

### **Q drop Policy**

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:

“Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number.”

The photographic image (ANT 325)

### **Schedule of readings and assignments**

**Aug. 27    Thursday**

**Sept. 1    Tuesday**

**Sept. 3    Thursday**

Bring one photograph that is important to you. Be prepared to show it to the class and discuss the meaning and value of the image.

**Sept. 8    Tuesday**

You need to have read Roland Barthes' *Camera Lucida* for today.

**Sept. 10   Thursday**

**Sept. 15   Tuesday**

- Sept. 17**    **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 1. Figuring the everyday*
- Sept. 22**    **Tuesday**  
*Photo study #1*
- Sept. 24**    **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 2. Arguments*
- Sept. 29**    **Tuesday**  
*Photo study #2*
- Oct. 1**      **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 3. Simmel: Fragments of everyday life*
- Oct. 6**      **Tuesday**  
*Photo study #3*
- Oct. 8**      **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch 4. Surrealism: The marvelous in the everyday*
- Oct. 13**    **Tuesday**  
*Photo study #4*
- Oct. 15**    **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 5. Benjamin's trash aesthetics*
- Oct. 20**    **Tuesday**
- Oct. 22**    **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 6. Mass-Observation: A science of everyday life*
- Oct. 27**    **Tuesday**  
*Determine collaborative readings in class.*
- Oct. 29**    **Thursday.**  
*Highmore, Ch. 7. Henri Lefebvre's dialectics of everyday life.*
- Nov. 3**      **Tuesday**  
*Minor scrapbook #1*
- Nov. 5**      **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 8. Michel de Certeau's poetics of everyday life*
- Nov. 10**    **Tuesday**  
*Minor scrapbook #2*
- Nov. 12**    **Thursday**  
*Highmore, Ch. 9. Postscript: Everyday life and the future of cultural studies.*

- Nov. 17**    **Tuesday**  
*Collaborative readings #1*  
*Major scrapbook proposal*
- Nov. 19**    **Thursday**  
*Collaborative readings #2*
- Nov. 24**    **Tuesday**  
*Collaborative readings #3*
- Nov. 26-28**    **Thursday-Saturday** Thanksgiving holidays
- Dec. 1**    **Tuesday**
- Dec. 3**    **Thursday**  
*Last Class \*no class*