

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

433.34 Photography

3 credit hours

Winter 2011

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Tuesday and Friday, 9:50-11:05.

Office Hours: Wednesday, 8:30-11:30, or by appointment.

SYLLABUS

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the history of photography and fundamental ideas in the theory of photography. It examines how audiences engage with this important, and deeply personal, cultural product. A large part of this course emphasizes a critical perspective on photography as a cultural process. Along with theoretical perspectives on photography, there will be an introduction to the practice of photography.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through participation in lectures, classroom discussion and completion of the course requirements:

1. The student will be familiar with the major theoretical elements of the field of photography;
2. The student will understand the various ways in which photography might be discussed, within the realm of communication theory;
3. The student will be able to use basic photographic techniques. The student will also be able to engage with photographic cultural products in a critical manner.

C. COURSE TEXTS

Required: Barthes, Roland. *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Translated by Richard Howard. New York: Hill and Wang, 1981.

Required: Edwards, Steve. *Photography: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Camera: The student must have access to a digital camera. Although a digital single lens reflex (digital SLR) camera is preferred, it *is not* essential. If the student is serious about photography, one might consider investing in a digital SLR camera and lenses.

2. Class attendance, participation and reading of the course text(s): It is only in the best interest of the student if he or she attends each class and, in fact, consistent attendance is required. Each student is expected to read the assigned course texts and be prepared to contribute to a meaningful discussion based on those readings. It is on this participation that a portion of the final grade is based. Each student is expected to arrive to class promptly for its beginning.

3. Readings Quizzes: There will be unannounced quizzes throughout the semester, consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions. These quizzes will be based on the readings. A student will receive no marks for quizzes missed, nor will they be able to write them at a later date.

4. Theory Journal: Each student must prepare a 1 page paper for each class in which they discuss the assigned reading from Roland Barthes' *Camera Lucida*. These papers are an avenue for engagement with the text and personal reflection.

5. Photographic Portfolio: The student is required to submit a collection of approximately 100 of their own high-quality photos taken during the course. These photos must have been taken during the course, not previously. The student is expected to be taking photos on a regular basis throughout the course. These photos should be submitted on CD or DVD, and should be accompanied with a short paper (4 pages) describing the student's own photographic philosophy, taking into account course materials.

E. GRADING SUMMARY

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Readings Quizzes:	15%
Theory Journal:	20%
Photographic Portfolio:	25%
Final Exam	30%

Excellent	A+	4.0	91-100	Satisfactory	C+	2.5	67-69
	A		85-90	Adequate	C	2.0	63-66
	A-		80-84		C-		60-62
Very Good	B+	3.5	77-79	Marginal	D+	1.0	57-59
Good	B	3.0	73-76		D		53-56
	B-		70-72		D-		50-52
				Failure	F	0.0	<50

F. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/) and the College Academic Calendar (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/).

1. Class Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 5 classes **for any reason** will result in a failing grade in the course.

2. Late Assignment Policy: Assignments are due immediately at the beginning of class on the date on which they are due. Assignments not remitted at that time will be accepted by hand or in my mailbox with a 10% penalty only until 4:30pm on the day that the assignment is due. Any assignments turned in after 4:30pm of the due day will be accepted but will receive a grade of 0. As there will be no extensions granted for any assignments, please note their due dates.

3. Written Assignment Format Policy: All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font (12-point only), with 1-inch margins on all four sides of the page, and include proper pagination. In addition, the text must be left-justified. The paper must follow Turabian style. Written assignments may be double-sided. The text should also be free of errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling. The paper should be stapled together at the top left corner, without any type of plastic or paper binding. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a**

loss of marks. Papers without a proper bibliography or any proper citations will receive a mark of 0, unless otherwise exempted by the professor.

4. Plagiarism: Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all its various forms, and will be held accountable for doing so by the policy on Academic Conduct in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/). One particularly problematic breach of academic integrity is plagiarism, which is stealing from the ideas and writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. For an elaboration of the nature, types, and prevention of plagiarism, see the Providence College document entitled "Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing," in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore.

5. Missed Exams: Exceptions to final exams must be processed by appeal to the Academic Committee.

6. Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom: **Student use of information and communication technologies for purposes other than class note-taking is not allowed in the classroom, as students are expected to give their total attention to class activities.** Use of cell-phones or iPods is never appropriate in the classroom, and use of laptop computers to play games, chat with others, browse the internet, or engage material not related to the class is always distracting to classmates and disrespectful to the instructor. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, Providence has not yet found it necessary to ban laptops from the classroom, or prevent wireless internet access in classrooms. Only judicious use of them will keep it that way.

This is a Communications and Media class. As such, the exploration of new communication technologies is encouraged. However, unauthorized use of laptops and other information and communication technologies in this class will not be tolerated.

G. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adobe Lightroom; <<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshoplightroom/>>

Apple Aperture; <<http://www.apple.com/aperture/>>

Berger, John. *Ways of Seeing*. London: British Broadcasting Corporation and Penguin Books, 1977.

London, Barbara and Jim Stone. *A Short Course in Photography: An Introduction to Photographic Technique*. 7th Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009.

Sontag, Susan. *On Photography*. New York: The Noonday Press, 1977.

This Week in Photography; <<http://www.thisweekinphoto.com>>

H. COURSE OUTLINE

- January 11: Introduction; Photography
- January 14: Forgetting Photography
Edwards, Ch. 1
Barthes paper (sections 1-4) DUE
- January 18: Forgetting Photography (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch. 1
- January 21: Documents
Edwards, Ch. 2
Barthes paper (sections 5-8) DUE
- January 25: **DAY OF PRAYER**
- January 28: Documents (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch. 2
Barthes paper (sections 9-12) DUE
- February 1: Pictures
Edwards, Ch. 3
- February 4: Pictures (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch. 3
Barthes paper (sections 13-16) DUE
- February 8: What is a photograph?
Edwards, Ch. 4
- February 11: What is a photograph? (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch. 4
Barthes paper (sections 17-20) DUE
- February 15: The Apparatus and its image
Edwards, Ch. 5

- February 18: The Apparatus and its image (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch. 5
Barthes paper (sections 21-24) DUE
- February 22: Fantasy and remembrance
Edwards, Ch.6
- February 25: Fantasy and remembrance (cont'd)
Edwards, Ch.6
Barthes paper (sections 25-28) DUE
- March 1: Digital Photography
Edwards, Afterword
- March 4: Photography in Practice: Camera
Barthes paper (sections 29-32) DUE
- March 8: **READING WEEK**
- March 11: **READING WEEK**
- March 15: Photography in Practice: Lens
- March 18: Photography in Practice: Light and Exposure
Barthes paper (sections 33-36) DUE
- March 22: Photography in Practice: Lighting
- March 25: Thinking about Photography: Roland Barthes
Kasia Houlihan, "Annotation to Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography,"
<<http://csmt.uchicago.edu/annotations/barthescamera.htm>>
Barthes paper (sections 37-40) DUE
- March 29: Thinking about Photography: John Berger
<<http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jsa3/hum355/readings/berger.htm>>
Photographic Portfolio DUE
- April 1: Thinking about Photography: Walter Benjamin and Mechanical Reproduction
<<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm>>
Barthes paper (sections 41-44) DUE

April 5: Thinking about Photography: Susan Sontag
Christian Molidor and Mike Harter, "Sontag on Photography: Two Views,"
Center for Media Literacy,
<http://www.medialit.org/reading_room/article355.html>

April 8: Conclusions
Barthes paper (sections 45-48) DUE