

## **Topics - Photography** (PGY 4440C) 4 credits

Florida Atlantic University- Fall 2014

Pre-req: ART 1201C, PGY 2800C

Mondays/Wednesday from 4-6:50pm in AH 206 & VA 116

Professor: Sharon Lee Hart Email: harts@fau.edu

Office Hours: M/W from 7-8pm and by appointment in VA 116H

### **Course Description:**

This course will concentrate on one topic such as documentary photography, experimental photography, photo based mixed media, alternative process, lighting, etc. Students will explore personal image making through projects and discussions on content, technique and theory as it applies to their own work and the specific class topic. Access to a camera is required.

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### **Course Objectives:**

Will vary depending on specific Topics course.

### **Learning Methods:**

Formal demonstrations, hands on practice, readings, field trips, lectures, research projects, class discussions, photographic assignments in and out of class and critiques.

### **Attendance and Class Assignment Policy:**

Attendance is required, all absences are recorded and there is no distinction made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences. Missing more than 2 classes will result in having your final grade reduced by half a letter grade for each subsequent absence. Arriving to class late 3 times will equal one absence.

Perfect attendance or missing zero classes will be rewarded with 3 points added to your final grade and a higher participation grade.

Special exceptions, including religious observances and other exceptions that are officially recognized by the University, must be discussed and accommodated in advance on an individual basis with me. Only properly documented university approved activities, cases of documented illness, and observance of religious holidays will be accommodated. In the event of any absence, you are responsible for all material covered during the missed class period and any assignments that are given during your absence. It is your responsibility to read over the assignments/projects thoroughly (project sheets will be posted on Shutterfly), research the photographers noted, and ask any questions you have about the assignment in a timely manner.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized a full letter grade for each day late and will not be accepted after three days have passed. The final project will not be accepted late. If your assignment is not prepared, you are still required to be at the group critique. Failing to be present on a due date will hurt both your project grade and your participation grade. Critique days provide an opportunity for you to gain feedback and insight from your classmates and instructor. Likewise it denies your peers your valuable voice and opinion if you are absent.

### **Classroom Behavior, Decorum and Civility**

In order to create a constructive and dynamic class atmosphere together, you will be expected to participate in class work and discussions throughout the entire scheduled class time, be respectful and tolerant of other people in the classroom (regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability), and be focused and motivated towards success.

- All cell phones must be turned off while class is in session- absolutely no usage will be permitted during class.
- Computers used in the lab are for working on class projects, not checking personal Facebook pages, email, etc.
- No work can be stored on the computers. All work must be stored on your external drive.
- No side conversations during lectures, critiques, or when another student is presenting work.
- Some material shown during class lectures or work done by fellow students may deal with religion, sexuality and other potentially controversial subject matter. It is necessary in a creative, academic environment that we do not censor works of art and show respect when sharing ideas and opinions.
- A portion of your participation grade will reflect the degree to which you participate in the group critiques.
- No food or drink around the computers. Do not bring anything stinky into the lab.
- It's a good idea to wash your hands before and after using the keyboards.

### **Statement of Academic Integrity:**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted for credit in this course, is expected to be the result of your own thought, research, manipulation, manual effort or self-expression. If you submit work purporting to be your own, but which in any way borrows ideas, manipulation, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, you are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be a published article, an artwork, or a project from a friend. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which you turn in as your own. You may discuss assignments among peers or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by you and you alone. Unintended plagiarism is still plagiarism. To ensure that you do not fall victim to that in anyway, please see me if you have any questions.

For written work: When your assignment involves research in outside sources of information, you must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where, and how you have employed them. If the words of someone else are used, you must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic.

Note: All photographs turned in for this class must specifically be made for the assignment given and you must be the photographer. You may not under any circumstances turn in old photographs or photographs made by someone other than yourself. This includes self-portraits or any image where you are including yourself in the frame. You **MUST** be the one to push the shutter or set the timer. Photographs that are turned in that violate the aforementioned policy will result, at minimum, in a zero being assigned for the project grade.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who, due to a disability, require special accommodation to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010) -- and follow all OSD procedures.

### **Recommended Texts:**

*The Adobe Photoshop CS6 Book for Digital Photographers* by Scott Kelby  
*A History of Women Photographers* by Naomi Rosenblum  
*Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present* by Deborah Willis  
*The Photograph as Contemporary Art* by Charlotte Colton  
*Criticizing Photographs* by Terry Barrett  
*The Photography Reader* by Liz Wells  
*Why Art Cannot Be Taught: A Handbook for Art Students* by James Elkins  
*On Being a Photographer: A Practical Guide* by David Hurn and Bill Jay  
*The Business of Photography: Principles and Practices* by Mary Virginia Swanson  
*After Photography* by Fred Ritchin  
*Seeing is Believing* by Errol Morris  
*101 Things to Learn in Art School* by Kit White  
*Letters to a Young Artist* by Peter Nesbett, Sarah Address and Shelly Bancroft  
*Photography After Frank* by Philip Gefter  
*Vitamin Ph (New Perspectives in Photography)* by TJ Demos  
*Street Photography Now* by Sophie Howarth  
*The Pink Glass Swan* by Lucy Lippard  
*The Ongoing Moment* by Geoff Dyer  
*Photography At The Dock: Essays on Photographic History, Institutions, and Practices* by Abigail Solomon-Godeau  
*The Education of a Photographer* Edited by Charles Traub  
*Taking the Leap* by Cay Lang  
*Seven Days in the Art World* by Sarah Thornton  
Research books applicable to projects

\*I am happy to recommend books in your area of interest.

### **Required Supplies:**

Will vary depending on specific Topics course.

### **Blackboard & Shutterfly**

We will be using the online services of both Blackboard and Shutterfly during this semester for assignments, readings, and image submissions. I will give you brief instructions on how to use these websites, but it is your responsibility to fully learn and understand each of these websites before it is time to upload images and other information. All assignments, projects, and readings I give will be posted to Shutterfly. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard or handed to you in class. On the first day of class you will need to open a (free) Shutterfly account and send a request to be added to our class page. Type \_\_\_\_\_ into your computer browser's address/URL bar. This will send you to the Shutterfly request page and will you be prompted to press the "ask" button. Once you do this, I will approve your request and you will have access to the site. Please use an email address that you check frequently. Post a photograph of your face as your profile picture. You can do this by going to "edit profile" and adding or changing the picture. This is due this evening by 10pm and is part of your participation grade.

The Shutterfly share site that the class will be using is a community website for this class and limited other faculty to use and view. You should not download, copy, or print any images that are not your own without express written consent from the photographer/owner. Any break in these terms will be considered a violation of copyright and will result, at minimum, in a failing grade.

**\*I will frequently communicate with you via email and through our class Shutterfly site. It is a requirement that you check both daily. . The FAU Studio Art Photo blog: <http://fauphoto.blogspot.com/> contains program updates, opportunities, internships, alumni news, student photographs, etc. Plan to check it at least once a week.**

**Grading:**

Students should expect to spend a minimum of eight hours per week outside of class working on projects and assignments. This includes shooting, image processing, researching, and writing. The following will be considered when grading assignments: Aesthetics, concept sophistication, experimentation, clarity, technical craft, adhering to project guidelines, submitting work on time and in full, and exploration of idea.

65% Projects and assignments (including readings)

5% Submit work to be considered for a show, competition, or publication at least twice this semester

20% A final body of work, gallery ready, professionally presented

10% Participation (in critiques, reading discussions, etc.)

**AH 206 Open Lab Hours**

Mondays 7-9pm

Fridays 1-5pm

Sundays 10-4pm

**Open Lab Hours for VA 116**

Mon & Wed: Lab open after 7pm

Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun: Lab open 24/7

Friday: Lab closed

**Academic Calendar**

August 30<sup>th</sup>: Last day at 5 p.m. to drop/add courses without consequences

September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Labor Day –No classes

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Last day to submit application for degree

October 18<sup>th</sup>: Last day to drop a course or withdraw without receiving an "F" in each course

November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veteran's Day-No classes

November 28<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>: Thanksgiving –No classes

December 4<sup>th</sup>: Last Day of Classes

December 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>: Final Exams

**List of Class Topics and Assignments:**

Will vary depending on specific Topics course.