PHO 450 Senior Portfolio Review
Cross-listed with PHO 359 Junior Seminar
T 12 – 2:50pm
Journalism Room 110
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015

Instructor: Leigh Merrill
Office Location: Journalism 3rd Floor
Office Hours: Thursday 1:30 – 3:00pm
University Email Address: leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:
• *Collect Contemporary Photography* by Jocelyn Phillips. Thames & Hudson, 2012

Optional/Suggested Readings:
• *Pandora’s Camera: Photogr@phy After Photography* by Joan Foncuiberta
• *Each Wild Idea* by Geoffrey Batchen (available online)
• *Camera Lucida* by Roland Barthes
• *On Photography* by Susan Sontag

Course Description:
This course is an advanced photography seminar course in which students will work to deepen their photographic practice. This course will foster the development of a creative body of work and your professional practice as a photographer. In addition to individual self-driven projects, students will read and discuss writings on current trends in photography.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course students should be able to demonstrate the following:
• A cohesive, well developed finished portfolio
• Participation in a group exhibition
• A better understanding and fluency with contemporary trends in photography
• Effective critique by participation in critical evaluation regarding your own work and the work of others
• A professional toolkit

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities
This course will consist of critique of student’s projects, readings, discussion and lectures. Each class will consist of a combination of some or all of the following activities:

- Critique of student projects
- Discussions of readings on contemporary photography and creative practices
- Lectures/Presentations/Demos of course topics
- Individual meetings (student/ instructor meetings to discuss progress)
- Studio work time

**Grading**

- Participation / Discussions 5%
- Professional Toolkit 10%
- Critiques 75%
- Frame/Exhibition 10%

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

- Students are required to have camera equipment necessary to complete their projects. Access to University equipment is available for check-out on a day by day basis.

- Students are required to pay for all printing and matting costs. Students will have access to printing and computer labs on campus. Schedules for these labs will be available at the beginning of the spring semester.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
Please contact me through email.

Email: leigh.merrill@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: By appointment on Thursday 1:30 – 2:00pm

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Course Specific Procedures:**

**Procedures & Policies for Submission of assignments**

A. All work must have been shot this semester for this class only.
B. Due Date: All assignments are due on the date and time given by the instructor. Any work that is late will be reduced by one letter grade. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than one week late.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required and is recorded at all class and lab meetings. Every student will be responsible for all information given during scheduled class and lab times. **Note: A total of 4 absences from any class meetings can result in a failing grade ("F") or you will be dropped from the class.** Excused absences are listed under Class Attendance (A13.02) in the A&M-Commerce Procedures. Verifiable excuses for absences must be turned in to the instructor.

**University Specific Procedures:**

ADA Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu  
Student Disability Resources & Services

**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments and changes to this syllabus and calendar. Any changes will be mentioned in class or via email.

**Week 1**  1/20  
Introduction to Class / Review of Syllabus / Assign Critique Groups  
**Recommended Lecture: Charissa Terranova, Jan 22** TAMUC campus

**Week 2**  1/27  
Reading Discussion:  
- *Enter the Dragon: On the Vernacular of Beauty*, Dave Hickey  
  Can be found online at:  
- *An Argument about beauty*, Susan Sontag  
  Can be found online at:  

**Professional Tool Kit**

**Week 3**  2/3  
Reading Discussion:  
- *Collect Contemporary Photography*  
  - Photographers (pages 24 – 71: Miles Aldridge – Philip-Lorca diCorcia)  
**Recommended Lecture: Margaret Meehan, Feb 3, TAMUC campus**

**Week 4**  2/10  
Critique Group 1  
**Recommended Lecture: Arthur Pena, Feb 12, TAMUC campus**

**Week 5**  2/17  
Critique Group 2

**Recommended Event: Framing Desire: Photography and Video** Feb.21 – Aug.23

**Week 6**  2/24  
Demo: Framing / Exhibition Concerns  
Reading Discussion:  
- *Collect Contemporary Photography*
Photographers (pages 72 – 139: Ahmet Ertug – Stephen J Morgan)

Recommended Lecture: Francisco Moreno, Feb. 26, TAMUC campus

Possible - Optional Field Trip: Sunday, March 1 Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art (free first Sunday of the month) to see Framing Desire: Photography and Video.

Week 7 3/3  Critique Group 1

Recommended Lecture: Michelle Mackey, March 5, TAMUC campus

Week 8 3/10  Critique Group 2

SPE National Conference in New Orleans, LA March 12 - 15

Week 9 3/17  Spring Break

Week 10 3/24  TBA – Possible Field Trip: Mark Tribe at Zhulong Gallery, Dallas Design District Galleries, Cydonia, Weld Studios

Recommended Lecture: Mariah Robertson, March 26, TAMUC campus

Week 11 3/31  Reading Discussion:
  • Collect Contemporary Photography

Week 12 4/7  Critique Group 1 (drafts of statements due)

Recommended Lecture: Nathan Green, April 9, TAMUC campus

Week 13 4/14  Critique Group 2 (drafts of statements due)

Week 14 4/21  Due: Professional Toolkit
              Due: One Exhibition Ready artwork

Recommended Lecture: Andrew Sexton, April 21, TAMUC campus

Week 15 4/28  Critique Group 1

Week 16 5/5  Critique Group 2