Metropolitan State University

HUM 333 : The Photo and the Other

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course introduces students to visual culture theory with an emphasis on the photographic image. The course examines how photography has shaped Western culture's understanding of how to "read" images of people and their spaces for their status, meaning and utility within a community. Contemporary theories debate the place of the photo in distinguishing and contesting our representations of people in terms of race, ability, class, gender, sexuality and size. Students will learn how modern views of photography as both an art and a science create an often contradictory set of beliefs about what a photo shows that is "real" or "true."

B. Course Effective Dates: 01/11/2010 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Apply cultural theories (e.g., Marxism, post-colonial theory, feminist theory, queer theory and/or aesthetic theories) to an examination of unequal power relationships between groups as evidenced in photography, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

2. Appraise the relationships of the photograph to the development and changing meanings of group identities in U.S. history and culture, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

3. Assess the integrity of photographic images related to gender, sexuality, age, disability and other constructions of the body, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

4. Compare and contrast photographic representations of race, class, and ethnicity, together with the contributions and experiences of diverse groups, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

5. Cultivate awareness of cultural biases and biased approaches to reading photographic images, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

6. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

7. Examine how photographs have been used politically, both to foster oppression and to protest it, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

8. Learn a canon of influential contemporary photographers and the significance of their work, at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)
Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies
    None

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts
    1. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
    2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
    3. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
    4. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
    5. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity
    1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
    2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
    3. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
    4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
    5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

G. Special Information

    None