

# American Photography

## Art 5330.001

### Fall 2009

Asst. Professor: Dr. Sailor  
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Office hours: M/W 9:30-11:00

#### Course Objectives

In this course students will learn to think critically about photographic representation, especially as it applies to “fine art.” Students will explore the concept of “truth” in photography by studying photography from different decades in America. Students will be introduced to the main technical and cultural innovations in the history of American photography, and will become familiar with the most innovative and important photographers since 1840. We will also read an array of scholarship that approaches the topic from a number of methodologies.

#### Assessment:

Grades will be based on attendance and participation, two exams, and a book review  
Attendance and Participation: 10%  
Research Paper: 20%  
Book Review: 20%  
Midterm: 25%  
Final: 25%

#### Required Texts:

- Gretchen Garner, *Disappearing Witness: Change in Twentieth-Century American Photography*
- Alan Trachtenberg, *Reading American Photographs*
- Susan Sontag, *On Photography*

#### Attendance and Participation Policy:

Attendance and participation in this course are *mandatory* and worth 10% of your grade. Participation will be assessed by the student’s contribution to weekly discussion and by a demonstrated engagement with the course material.

<http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf>

#### Research Paper

All graduate students will be required to complete a 12-20 page research paper. The topic of the paper should be chosen in consultation with me. Regular meetings outside of class are expected.

#### Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html>

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**

If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average.

Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped

after the 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule include, but are not limited to, the following: totally withdrawing from the university; being administratively dropped from a course; dropping a course for a personal emergency; dropping a course for documented change of work schedule; or dropping a course for active duty service with the U.S. armed forces or Texas National Guard.

Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar's Office if you have any questions.

### **Disability Services**

In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement:**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Academic Dishonesty** PLAGIARISM OR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OF ANY KIND WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF "F" IN THIS COURSE.

Please consult A Student Guide to Conduct and Discipline at UT Tyler (available in the Office of Student Affairs) for university regulations regarding academic dishonesty: "3.22 Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

### **Student Learning Outcomes for MA—Art History 09-10**

#### **1. Critically thinking**

Students will demonstrate extemporaneous critical thinking about works of art by writing 10-20 minute essays during exams.

#### **2. Synthesize knowledge**

Students will write research papers that integrate history, formal analysis, and contemporary scholarship in order to develop original scholarship of their own.

#### **3. Critically writing**

Students will write research papers that demonstrate a thoughtful and critical approach to a work of art.

#### **4. Apply scholarship**

Students will write research papers that integrate contemporary scholarly ideas into their own assessment of art and art history.

#### **5. Analyze scholarship**

Students will review and assess scholarship and analyze scholarly methodology as part of the thesis project.

#### **6. Oral proficiency**

Students will present their original scholarship as part of the requirements for art history courses.

### **Student Learning Outcomes for MFA 08-09**

#### **1. Analyze objects**

Students will analyze the components of their visual object(s) and articulate the intended and discovered content of their aesthetic.

#### **2. Contextualize aesthetic**

Students will contextualize the artist's aesthetic to the canon of art history and contemporary art theory.

#### **3. Document works**

Students will digitally document their art works for the purpose of archiving, application, and presentation.

#### **4. Exhibit works**

Students will participate in juried exhibitions of their work.

#### **5. Interpret works**

Students will demonstrate ability to define and interpret their works of art within the context of contemporary art.

#### **6. Relativity**

The graduate committee will review student work questioning the works relativity to traditional standards v. innovative standards.