

Course Syllabus

PHO 363 PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR

6607 Contemporary Issues in Photography

Credit Hours: 3

Fall 2007

Location: CB #306

Instructor: Becky Finley

Office: Art D 106

Phone #: 294-3418

e-mail: bfinley@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Wed 1:00 – 3:00 or by

appointment

Catalog Description: A different topic is presented each semester. Photo majors must take at least one seminar class in order to graduate. May be repeated for credit.

Seminar Topic Description & Goals: Gaining an understanding of contemporary photographic trends and theory is among the goals of this course. Students will be expected to complete a body of personal photographic work that demonstrate conceptual development. This course will also include: weekly assigned readings, discussions, and slide presentations.

Course Objectives:

- * Completion of a body of work including 20 final prints and Artist Statement.
- * Understanding current theory, issues and trends in photography in order to gain a better understanding of one's own creative processes and concepts.
- * Students will be working with scale and final presentation through digital output of their images.

Text: No text is required for this course, however there will be reading assignments, recommendations and handouts. Students are expected to read all materials and may be asked to write a brief response. They must also be prepared to discuss each reading assignment in class.

Supplies:

- * Camera (either digital or film)
- * Photo Ink Jet Paper (compatible with Epson printers)
- * Various supplies for presentation

* Note book for work prints and contact prints

Course Requirements:.

* Assignments = Students will be working on their own individual projects. While there will be no specific photographic assignments, there will be assigned readings and/or technical exercises.

*Critiques = Students are expected to show work throughout the semester. Work should be shown every other week. A minimum of 5 presentations, are expected.

*Class Participation = It is essential for the success of the class that students participate in class discussions, critiques, and presentations. Missing class, arriving late, and failure to contribute to the class discussions can result in a low class participation grade, which will count equal to an assignment/crit.

*Gallery Visits = Students are expected to attend at least 3 openings at the Gaddis Geeson Gallery, Lowman Student Center, or SOFA Gallery. Visiting the galleries during class time does not count. Students are also expected to visit at least one museum or gallery outside of Huntsville during the semester. A one-page summary must be written about your experience in order to get credit.

Grading:

Students will be graded based on completion of projects, class participation, and progress. The final course grade will be an average of these grades.

Scale:

A = 90 - 100 (Excellent! Reserved for students who excel. The very best)
B + = 85 - 89 (Outstanding! Great Job! Well Above Average.)
B = 80 - 84 (Very Good. Better than most.)
C+ = 75 - 79 (Pretty Good. Slightly above Average)
C = 70 - 74 (Average. Complete. Competent. Most photos are average.)
D = 60 - 69 (Below average. Needs work. Barely passing.)
F = 59 or lower (Unacceptable work for a college student.)

Attendance:

SHSU policy states: "regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student." In order for you to succeed in this course, you must come to class. Students are responsible for all material covered in their absence. Repeated absences (more than 3) will result in a lowered final course grade.

Academic Honesty:

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. **All work must be your own, generated by you alone and it must be completed this semester. Any violation of these policies will result in an F for the semester.**

Classroom Demeanor:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and thus, impedes the mission of the university. cellular phones and pagers must be turned off prior to the beginning of each class. Students are prohibited from eating, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other non course related materials, sleeping, and talking to other students at in appropriate times during class. Any inappropriate or disruptive behavior will result in a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. **Repeated disruptions will result in a reduction of a student's final course grade.**

Classroom Visitors:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU id card to be allowed in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered SHSU student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

It is the policy of SHSU that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied

the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity, Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling 936-294-1720.

Religious Holidays

SHSU Policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holiday must be allowed to take an examination or complete assignments scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holiday must present the instructor with a written statement describing the holiday and the travel involved. The instructor will then provide the student with a written description of the assignment and deadline for the completion of the missed work.

The Sophomore Gate

Spring Semester, 2007, the Art Department will begin implementing the Sophomore Gate. Any student without a degree plan (BA/BFA) will be required to follow the gate policy.

Upon completion of the 6 foundation art classes (Art 161: Basic Design I, Art 163: Drawing, Art 164: Life Drawing I, Art 265: Basic Design II, Art 271: 3D Design, Art 260: Pre-Renaissance Art History) students are required meet with Pat Lawler, the art advisor, to declare a degree program (BA/BFA) or they will be blocked from registering for upper division art classes.

Students choosing the BA program will be unblocked and continue with their course work.

Students who elect to apply for the BFA will fill out an application, must have a 3.0 or better GPA and are required to sign up for a portfolio review after completing the first course in their intended concentration.

Reviews are conducted each semester by Departmental faculty. Students who pass the review will be invited into the BFA Program. Students who do not meet BFA standards will be given feedback on areas that need improvement and will be directed to either reapply for a second review or enroll in the BA program. Students are limited to two BFA applications. Those requesting a second review, are advised consult with faculty concerning their progress and course of action.