

Visual Anthropology in Practice: **THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE**

This is a preliminary syllabus.

Critical information will be posted and updated on Canvas

ANT 325J (31698) - Location: SAC 4.120

Seminar: Tuesdays: 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Lab: Fridays: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Instructor: Craig Campbell

Office hours: Fridays 3-4pm in my office (SAC 4.122)

Teaching Assistant: Jimmy Beveridge

Office hours: Tuesdays from 10am to noon at *Caffé Medici* on Guadalupe (Guad and 22nd).

Firearms are not welcome in this class. If you own a gun, leave it at home.

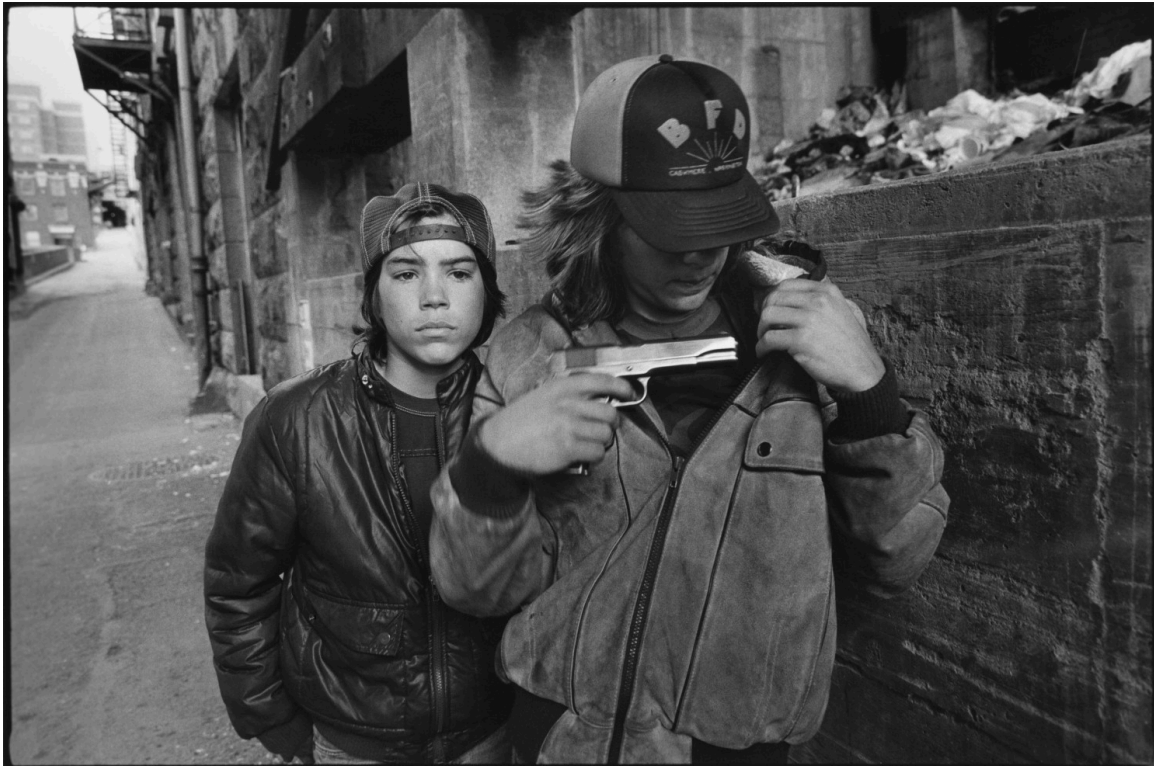


Photo: Mary Ellen Mark

Reality is always extraordinary.
Mary Ellen Mark

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE

Course Description

"The Photographic Image" applies concepts and practices from visual ethnography to the study of memory, place, and everyday life. The course aims at developing approaches to practices of looking and techniques of representation within an ethical and historical framework. Whereas photographs are often taken to be archival and documentary technologies, we will invert this idea and explore how images can be transient and ephemeral by focusing on sites of encounter and codes of engagement. In our critical approach we consider both the production and reception of photographs.

The class is planned around a number of photo-based projects and one final project. You will be required to read for these projects and undertake original photography assignments. At all points in the course students are drawn into the use of image-making as an interpretive and critical engagement with course readings. Writing is an essential element of in visual ethnography; sometimes it is foregrounded, sometimes it is subordinated to the photographs. Regardless, students will have an opportunity to fine-tune their writing in relation to their photographic practice. We will begin with techniques of visual inquiry established by visual anthropologists and documentarians as well as artists working within or on the margins of documentary traditions. Students are expected to engage fully in both individual and group activities.

Students will be expected to have at their disposal a camera (digital or analogue).

Required Readings

All assigned readings will be posted on Canvas. There are no books to purchase in this class.

Learning Goals

In general, there are a number of critical things that I think you should learn in this course. As the title suggests the idea and practice of photography are central. This is not a photography course that you would take in a Fine Arts or Journalism program; understanding the differences in these disciplines is a key learning goal. You will be using your camera in a form of practice-based and experiential learning. As we study photography you will be using your own photographs and camera to extend your inquiry and hone your critical eye.

Ethics in research practice with a focus on the ethics of qualitative research and visual representation is fundamental to and pervasive through this course. You will learn how ethics matters not only in and to the discipline of Anthropology, but as a general humanist approach to research. More specifically, you will learn the nuances of 'informed consent' through practice-based exercises.

You will develop a flexible and extensible skill set that will allow you to read photographic theory and history, look at and think about photographs as a form of visual culture, and think about the ways that photographs are apprehended by people in the everyday. Reading and writing are critical components to this practice of visual anthropology

Note:

All information in this syllabus is subject to change. Students will be given reasonable and explicit notice for all changes to the syllabus.

Grades & Assignments:

Reading notes = 10%
Participation = 20%
Presentations = 10%
Photo Assignments = 30%
Final Project = 30%

Reading Notes

For all seminars with assigned readings you are required to hand in reading notes. These should be around a page in length (max 2). Reading notes must include:

- Your name, ID#, Date
- Formatted reference to that week's readings (MLA style)
- Quotes from the text that you find interesting, challenging, or problematic.
- A few questions or ideas you'd like to discuss in class
- Other notes

Participation

Attendance and participation in labs and seminars is mandatory. If you need to miss a day contact us in advance. Unapproved absences, late arrivals, early departures can count against you in your participation grade.

Presentations

In-class presentations are a critical component of this course. You will be evaluated on your preparation and your presentation. The presentations should be *polished*, intelligent, and coherent.

Photo Assignment requirements.

All photo assignments require you to take photographs. They also require you to read assigned materials and undertake abbreviated research projects. There will be multiple assignments throughout the course of the semester that will help to develop and set the foundations for your final project.

- Purchase two portfolios for holding your work (must be large enough to hold tabloid (A3, 11x17) prints. Write your name on them and use them when you hand in assignments. Please don't get large portfolios. We're basically just looking for a paper or plastic sleeve or envelope.
- Most of your assignments will require you to print on tabloid sized paper. You will need to find a printer who can do this for you (copy centers at UT can do this). As we proceed through the semester we will be placing more and more importance on the quality of your presentation (not just the content).
- In most of our labs we will be doing critiques (crits) of your work. Even if the assignment is not due on that day, you are required to come prepared with work to share. Typically, half of your grade for any given assignment will be based on what you have brought and prepared for the crit. Assignments will be graded by percentage and then averaged at the end.

Final Project

The final project for this class is an independent ethnographic photo-essay. It is a major multi-part project.

University Notices and Policies

Documented Disability Statement

- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd> .

Notice regarding academic dishonesty

- Honor Code or statement of ethics.
 - University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
- Explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism
- Web site for more information:
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism>

Religious Holy Days

- By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

- If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin

- The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.
 - Sanger Learning and Career Center: <http://lifelearning.utexas.edu/>
 - Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>
 - Counseling & Mental Health Center: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>
 - Career Exploration Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/>
 - Student Emergency Services: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>