Course Number:  ARTS 3102

Instructor:  Tonia Hughes

Title:  Ethics of International Photography (Study Abroad Course)

Number of credit hours:  3 (1-5-3)

Textbooks:

On Photography by Susan Sontag
Ways of Seeing by John Berger
Adobe Photoshop CS3 Classroom in a Book
Quick reference guide of student’s choice on Photoshop
Quick reference guide of student’s choice on Digital Photography
Various handouts

Other Supplies Required:

A digital camera with a minimum of 10 mega pixels
An external hard drive
Various presentation materials

Catalog Description:

This course is an introductory study of ethical issues regarding photography (both digital and film). It is a studio course with no pre-requisites that can be taken as an elective. Students will be instructed on basic photography and digital editing techniques producing a photographic series in collaboration with students indigenous to the country. (1-5-3)

Prerequisites:  none

Course Objectives:

This class will introduce students to ethical issues embedded in photography. Students will be paired with students from another country and work collaboratively to photograph another culture from the perspective of those who live there. Studio work will be created in tandem with a research project in which students will examine the ethical issues involved in photographing a community that is not indigenous to the photographer. The conclusion of the course will be an exhibition of the collaborative photographic work, including artists’ statements written by each student describing their experiences, and the submission of a research paper.
Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1) Apply basic photography skills including knowledge of lighting, composition, and exposure.
2) Create images utilizing current professional software.
3) Print, assemble and construct gallery-ready digital images.
4) Illustrate an understanding of photography as an art medium, including employing vocabulary for describing the formal qualities of a photograph and practicing critical evaluations of conceptual meaning within photographic images.
5) Examine ethical issues involved in photographing a culture that is not indigenous to the photographer.
6) Identify and research a specific ethical topic and write a paper discussing the ethical debates, explaining the consequences to the subjects/cultures involved, and expressing personal responses to photographic examples shown.
7) Experience a broader cultural perspective through collaborating with students from a foreign country. This experience will relate directly to both the images created and the paper composed.
8) Edit and arrange their art, as well as organize, plan and prepare a gallery exhibition.

Methods of Instruction:

Hands-on instruction of basic photography and digital editing techniques.
Lectures on ethical issues.
Slide/Powepoint presentations on pertinent photographic works and photographers.
Demonstrations and hands-on instruction of gallery presentation standards and hanging an exhibition.

Grading System and Requirements:

Photographic/studio work ................................................................. 45 pts.
(Divided into 3 graded projects @ 15 pts. Ea.)

Research Paper (6 page minimum) ......................................................... 20 pts.

Sketchbook/journal ........................................................................ 15 pts.
Final gallery exhibition…………………………………………………………………………………20 pts.

Total points
Possible……………………………………………………………………………100 pts,

Final average reported based on a ten point grading scale.

90-100 A
80-89  B
70-79  C
60-69  D
Below 60 F

Grades will be distinguished by the following characteristics:

A = OUTSTANDING WORK, significant extra time spent in developing work, risk taking, unity of concept and technique to create a well-defined statement apparent.

B = ABOVE AVERAGE WORK, solid concepts and skillful handling of materials, exploration of ideas evident, distinctive personal vision conveyed, accomplished technical skills.

C = AVERAGE WORK, competent execution of ideas but not pushing conventions, craftsmanship acceptable but with no outstanding qualities, overall investment fulfills requirements but no risk taking apparent.

D = BELOW AVERAGE WORK, little involvement in exploration of ideas, little attention to craftsmanship, deficient technical skills.

F = FAILING, no attempt to articulate ideas and a total lack of regard for craftsmanship.