

This "W" course fulfills one of two Writing Across the Curriculum requirements for students in the College of Arts & Sciences.

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Department website: www.westga.edu/~soccrim/

Office hours: M 9:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:30; T 9:30-11 & 4:30-5:30; W 9:30-11:30; R 9:30-11 & 1-2; other times by appointment. Office hours will be expanded during Advance Registration, Apr 7-25

Texts *Image-based Research* – Prosser 1998

Additional required readings are available online via UWG Library and/or on reserve.

Camera and Computer Lab You must have a camera to use for the entire semester. All images used must be prepared for this course; you cannot use photos taken prior to the first day of class for any of the assigned projects. All images, whether from traditional film prints or digital cameras, must be available for presentation in the Sociology Department Computer Lab. It is your responsibility to make sure images are available to be shown in the Computer Lab – your images can be on a CD, flashdrive, website you can readily access, or whatever you set up. We will use the Computer Lab to show images and to access various sites to discuss images and other issues.

Email Please send me your UWG email address ASAP and include your name. I'll create a list that we'll use for discussions, sharing information and resources, distributing assignments, etc. You are responsible for any assignments sent via email.

Attendance and Participation This course is a combined seminar and workshop. Your active, informed participation in discussions, presentations, and critiques is required. An important part of this course is participating in critiquing each other's photographic presentations. This serves to enhance your own analytical skills and it provides helpful feedback to your classmates. Attendance is thus essential and required. More than 2 unexcused absences will negatively impact your final grade (see grading below). Particular situations will be considered on an individual basis, so keep me informed if there is a problem.

In class questions. On 10 or more randomly selected dates during the semester, you will be asked at the beginning of class to respond to a question concerning the reading or assignment for that date. The aim is to encourage you to read the assigned materials and to study your class notes on an ongoing basis. Each question will be worth 1 point. You must complete the question in class the date and time that it is given. Please be aware there will be no opportunities to make up in class writings if you either miss the class or arrive after the exercise has been completed.

IMAGE-BASED RESEARCH EXERCISES (dates are tentative and subject to change)

1: Select one sociological concept other than race, gender, class or age for which you will produce 3 images, with captions, and a typed, 1 page summary of the thematic core that your images and written statement presents Jan 24

2: Identify a specific ritual OR a social landscape for which you will produce 3 images, with captions, and a typed 2 page summary of the thematic core that your images and written statement presents Feb 12

3 (critical analysis): Select a specific social problem or issue for which you will produce 3 images, with captions, and a typed 2 page summary of the thematic core that your images and written statement presents. Your discussion must use the ideas of a particular sociologist – you are free to select the sociologist whose ideas you’ll apply. (The problem you select might already be considered a problem or you might select something that you are arguing to convince others that it is a problem.) Feb 28

4: Identify how a specific group identifies itself OR create a sociologically informed portrait of some individual for which you will produce 4 images, with captions, and a typed 2 page summary of your thematic core. If you select the portrait only 1 of the images can be of the individual him or herself Mar 13

5 (critical analysis): Topic to be assigned for which you will produce 1 image, with caption, and a typed 3 page statement of your thematic core. Your discussion must use the ideas of a particular sociologist – you are free to select the sociologist whose ideas you’ll apply. Apr 3

6 Present 2 images, with captions (can be tentative) that will be used in your final project along with a 2 page typed abstract of the project (this should highlight your thematic core and your methodology). Your discussion must use the ideas of a particular sociologist – you are free to select the sociologist whose ideas you’ll apply. Apr 17

FINAL PROJECT: Complete a visual sociology research project – it can be either ethnographic or critical. It should include a minimum of 10 images and at least 12 pages of text (approx. 3000 words) - typed, double-spaced, with appropriate bibliography in ASA style (see Sociology Department website under “student resources”). Images used in your paper should be placed in the body of the text. Your project can be on any sociological topic of interest to you. While you may focus on a topic previously presented during the semester, you cannot reuse any images previously used. For ethnographic projects you must interview at least 3 people who are related to the social setting you are studying. Critical projects might or might not involve interviews depending on the issue and approach you select – see me to discuss possibilities.
Due April 29 @ 11 am

Grading

Exercises:

- 1 5pts
- 2 10 pts
- 3 10 pts
- 4 10 pts
- 5 15 pts
- 6 10 pts

unannounced in-class writings 10 pts
final project 50 pts

A=108-120 B=96-107 C=84-95 D=72-83 F=below72

Each unexcused absence, beyond the 2 permitted, will result in loss of 5 points from the final total points you’ve accumulated.

Alert! Familiarize yourself with the Academic Honest policy of the Department of Sociology & Criminology. This will help you avoid plagiarism and other activities that could cause you serious grief. Go to the department homepage (www.westga.edu/~soccrim) and find “Statement on Academic Honesty” (under “Student Resources”). The department maintains a zero tolerance

policy and violations will be met with sanctions. Ignorance of the policy's provisions is not an acceptable excuse.

Course learning outcomes:

- to learn the methodology of visual sociology as a type of qualitative sociology that produces and interprets visual images, here photographic images, and to complete visual sociological analyses of concrete situations and issues
- to learn basic compositional and critical skills related to the analysis of the images produced by others and those produced by you, the visual sociologist.
- to develop visual literacy as a skill necessary for understanding and critiquing contemporary social life in a media oriented culture by understanding how photographs and similar images organize, structure and transform social and personal life. to identify the social forces which produce, distribute, and utilize images
- to develop your writing skills, esp. your weaknesses, which you will learn to identify

The above course learning outcomes are directly related to the following BS Sociology program learning outcomes: learning the craft of sociological research and research presentation, critical thinking, cultural literacy, problem solving, and the valuing of cultural diversity.

Tentative topics/readings: * online via UWG library ** electronic reserve via UWG library

#1 introduction to qualitative methodology and visual sociology

* "Using Photography in Studies of Immigrant Communities" – Gold (American Behavioral Scientist, Vol. 47, No. 12, August 2004:1551-1572)

** "Tattoo Narratives: The Intersection of the Body, Self-Identity and Society" - Kosut

#2 Prosser – chap 6

#3 2 approaches to visual sociology: empirical and critical

** "Gender and Japanese Puppet Theatre" - Gibbons

** "In Our Glory: Photography and Black Life" – hooks

** "Facing Difference: The Black Female Body" – hooks

** "Activating the Photographic Text" - McCoy

#4 doing visual sociology: some basic considerations, including the issue of validity

chap 8, 4, 10, 14 - Prosser

* "Talking about pictures: a case for photo elicitation" – Harper (Visual Studies, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002:13-26)

(IMPORTANT: Review Part 3 of Prosser's text. These are not required readings, but they can serve as resources for your projects.)

#5 *"Visualizing histories: experiences of space and place in photographs by Greg Staats and Jeffrey Thomas" – Walsh (Visual Studies, Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002:37-51)