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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.

Midterm Exam There will be a mid-term exam (just prior to Spring break in March) dealing with selected issues and problems in visual sociological research and analysis. You'll choose from a list of discussion questions. This will be given as a take-home exam.

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, 2 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 3 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 3 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: Create a sociologically informed portrait of some individual for which you will produce 4 images, with captions, and a typed 3 page summary of your thematic core. 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 3-4 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 15 pages of text - 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 |
| midterm | 20 pts |
| final project | 50 pts |

A = 130-117

B= 116-104

C= 103-91

F=below 91

Course learning outcomes:

- to learn the fundamentals of qualitative sociology as a research method
- to learn the approach of visual sociology as a type of qualitative sociology that produces and interprets visual images, here specifically photographic images. to learn ways of doing and applying visual sociological analysis to 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. technical camera skills will not be taught, though you will be encouraged to learn them
- 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

The above course learning outcomes are directly related to the following Sociology Masters Program learning outcomes: to understand and apply quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, to understand and apply sociological theories, to think critically about the craft of sociology and about issues of social inequality, to understand one area of sociology in depth, and to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

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
- Prosser – chap 2 – strongly recommended, but not required
- #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
 - “Pedagogy and the Critical Practice of Photography” – Giroux and Simon (handout)
 - ^chapter 1 (“Researching visual materials: towards a critical visual methodology” – Rose (distribution TBA)
- #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)