



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
COMM-223	Documentary Photography in the Digital Era	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
Photography 1	Communications	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Major Elective	Photography	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Nicos Philippou	3-4
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Face-to-face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Provide an in- depth theoretical insight into issues related to the use of photography as a document.
- To explore the essence of photography and examine those intrinsic characteristics as well as external factors (ie its use within particular institutions), which bestowed the medium a privileged status over other systems of representation.
- To examine critically the use of photography as historical evidence, in photojournalism, ethnography, documentary projects, official documents and archives.
- To examine the theoretical dimensions of the recent shift to digital production as well as dissemination of documentary photography.
- To familiarize students with new documentary production technologies including mobile phones and new dissemination platforms (i.e. Instagram).
- The students take on the study of key readings in the relevant topic areas and undertake their own documentary project, which is informed by the theoretical perspectives discussed in class.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Analyse theories on the nature of photography and particularly its use as a document and be able to engage in relevant discussions.
2. Discuss key moments in the history of photographic documentary practices.
3. Analyse the extent to which the widely held notion that photography is closer to reality than other systems of representation is the product of intrinsic as well as external characteristics; i.e. its use as a document by state institutions like the police, courts of law etc.
4. Discuss issues rising from the use of photography in photojournalism, as ethnographic material and as historical evidence.
5. Analyse traditions and dominant 'schools' in representing Cyprus, its landscape, its people and its culture.
6. Analyse new approaches in representing Cyprus.
7. Discuss current trends in documentary photography.
8. Discuss the theoretical aspects of the shift to digital production technologies and platforms of dissemination.
9. Engage in research on a social or cultural topic and plan and execute a documentary photography project, which is conceptually, aesthetically and thematically coherent and relevant.

Course Content:

- History of photographic documentary practices: From the daguerreotype to Instagram
- Early responses to photography
- The nature of Photography/ subjectivity- objectivity/ Shifting nature in the digital era
- Photographic records and the state
- The Photobook as a Democratic Platform of Art Ownership and Documentary Photography Dissemination
- The FSA project
- The New Topographics
- Representing Cyprus
- Mobile phone photography
- Trends and issues in the digital era

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Formal lecturing, Discussions, Cases, Visual presentations, Project Work

Assessment Methods:

Attendance, interview with a documentary photographer, documentary project production and dissemination in a digital platform of choice.

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>The Photography Reader</i>	Wells, L. (ed.)	Routledge	Second edition/ 2018	9780415749183
<i>Classic Essays on Photography</i>	Trachtenberg, A. (ed)	Leete's Island Books	1980	0918172071
<i>Light and Lens: Photography in the Digital Age</i>	Robert Hirsch	Routledge	2018	9781138944398

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
<i>Camera Lucida</i>	Barthes, R.	Vintage	1993	0099225417
<i>On Photography</i>	Sontag, S.	Penguin	2008	0141035781
<i>Camera Indica</i>	Pinney, C.	Reaction Books	1997	1861890060
<i>The Burden Of Representation</i>	Tagg, J.	Palgrave Macmillan	1993	0816624054
<i>Orientalism</i>	Said, E.W.	Penguin	2003	0141187425

<i>Photography and Cyprus: Time, Place, Identity</i>	Wells, L. , Stylianou Lambert, T., Philippou, N. (Eds)	I.B. Tauris	2014	9781780766539
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