

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE

CDFP 392

Documentary Photography

This is a sample course outline only. It should not be used to plan assignments or purchase textbooks. A current version of the course outline will be provided by the instructor once the course begins.

Every effort will be made to manage the course as stated. However, adjustments may be necessary at the discretion of the instructor. If so, students will be advised and alterations discussed in the class prior to implementation.

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they understand the University's policies and procedures, in particular those relating to course management and academic integrity.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop course is designed to introduce students to ideas and methods of producing documentary photographs and portfolios. The course includes instruction in practical techniques (effective metering, flash, etc.), as well as an exploration of the history and vocabulary of documentary photography. The goal is the production of a documentary portfolio (prints, books, or digital slide show ready for a professional venue).

COURSE OBJECTIVE/LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to utilize the student's more advanced skills in the interest of creating a document that tells a story or describes a circumstance. This should be achieved competently and creatively utilizing a range of photographic equipment and materials. Building on the knowledge gained from the two introductory courses in photography, the student will explore a single subject in greater depth.

Emphasis will be placed on exploring the creative aspects of photography and students are encouraged to produce a body of work that reflects their own unique way of seeing. In addition to the major project, there will be a small number of varied assignments to assist in finding the themes the student wants to focus in on.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course will consist of ongoing reviews and discussions about work produced for the class, visual presentations, demonstrations, guest presentations, as well as loosely supervised production sessions and

in-class exercises. The course is designed to encourage each student to discover the themes they find engaging and to develop a strong, coherent body of work.

MATERIAL COSTS

Normally the costs are within the \$150 to \$200 range for the course, depending on your choice of film format or digital capture and final output format and size. (This does not include any major equipment purchase).

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE and ATTENDANCE

Students will be given a letter grade based on the current Ryerson day school calendar course performance designations. Photography combines visual and creative thinking with the technical skills of the camera and the darkroom. Student assignments will therefore be marked under both visual and technical criteria. Assignments are due in class as specified by the due date. Late work will be subject to a deduction. Students may re-do any of their assignments to improve their mark. The expectations of this course are to obtain a high level of photographic awareness, comprehension and mastery of techniques and to further develop one's approach to photography. Active involvement in lectures and group discussions is expected.

COURSE ALTERATIONS

Any planned alterations to the course will be discussed in class prior to implementation.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

In any practical course, reading augments and reinforces practice. If you don't already have one, obtaining a reference text from a library or bookstore is strongly recommended.

One of the best references is:

Photography (revised edition) Henry Horenstein , Pearson Prentice Hall Inc. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 2004 ISBN 0-13-183988-8

Recommended Documentary Texts:

Regarding the Pain of Others, Susan Sontag

Doing Documentary Work, Robert Coles

Witness In Our Time, Ken Light

Phototruth or Photofiction?, Tom Wheeler

Image Ethics in the Digital Age, Larry Gross, John Katz, Jay Ruby.

Recommended Photography Texts:

On Photography, Susan Sontag, Camera Lucida, Roland Barthes

Crisis of the Real, Andy Grundberg

The Privileged Eye, Max Kozloff

Criticizing Photographs, Terry Barrett

Train Your Gaze, Roswell Angier

Photography Galleries in Toronto that often feature documentary-based work:

The Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1026 Queen Street West, features documentary-based work.

Gallery TPW – will be re-opening at Queen/Ossington

Gallery 44 – 401 Richmond Street West (at Spadina Avenue)

Nicholas Metivier Gallery – King, Street West, just west of Spadina Avenue

Monte Clark Gallery – the Distillery

Corkin Gallery – the Distillery

Prefix Gallery - 401 Richmond Street West

Ryerson School of Image Arts galleries

IMA Gallery, 80 Spadina Avenue

MISSED TERM WORK OR EXAMINATIONS

Students are expected to complete all assignments, tests, and exams within the time frames and by the dates indicated in this outline. Exemption or deferral of an assignment, term test, or final examination is only permitted for a medical or personal emergency or due to religious observance. The instructor must be notified by e-mail **prior to** the due date or test/exam date, or as soon as possible after the date, and the appropriate documentation must be submitted. For absence on medical grounds, an official student medical certificate, downloaded from the Ryerson website at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf> or picked up from The Chang School at Heaslip House, 297 Victoria St., Main Floor, must be provided. For absence due to religious observance, visit <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/reobservforminstr.pdf> to obtain and submit the required form.

PLAGIARISM

The Ryerson Student Code of Academic Conduct defines plagiarism and the sanctions against students who plagiarize. All Chang School students are strongly encouraged to go to the academic integrity website at www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity and complete the tutorial on plagiarism.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Ryerson University and The Chang School are committed to the principles of academic integrity as outlined in the Student Code of Academic Conduct. Students are strongly encouraged to review the

student guide to academic integrity, including penalties for misconduct, on the academic integrity website at www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity and the Student Code of Academic Conduct at www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies.

RYERSON STUDENT EMAIL

All students in full and part-time graduate and undergraduate degree programs and all continuing education students are required to activate and maintain their Ryerson online identity at www.ryerson.ca/accounts in order to regularly access Ryerson's E-mail (Rmail), RAMSS, my.ryerson.ca portal and learning system, and other systems by which they will receive official University communications.

COURSE REPEATS:

Senate GPA policy prevents students from taking a course more than three times. For complete GPA policy see policy no. 46 at www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies.

RYERSON ACADEMIC POLICIES

For more information on Ryerson's academic policies, visit the Senate website at www.ryerson.ca/senatepolicies.

Course Management Policy No. 145

Student Code of Academic Conduct No. 60

Student Code of Non-Academic Conduct No. 61

Examination Policy No. 135

Policy on Grading, Promotion, and Academic Standing Policy No. 46

Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals Policy No. 134

Accommodation of Student Religious Observance Obligations Policy No. 150

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities Policy No. 159