

WRTC 426/ART 492 Mon/Wed 1:30-4:00 The Institute for Visual Studies (Roop 208)

Writing Photographs

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Description

In contemporary American culture, the combination of text and photography is part of daily communication. This communication happens so frequently and quickly that there is little time or motivation to look critically at the process and product. By developing a critical lens and practicing deliberate, creative approaches, we have the possibility of seeing differently and enabling a wider range of expression.

This interdisciplinary course, offered through JMU's Institute for Visual Studies, examines the relationships between photographs and texts in creative contexts. Students will create both photographs and written works while developing public exhibitions of what they make. The course is co-taught by a photographer and a writer, and will feature a Visiting Artist who will work directly with the students on their projects.

Course Objectives

Students will think critically about the complex relationships between text and photograph in a variety of creative applications. In developing this critical awareness, students will understand and apply the following in original creative works:

- higher order features of writing, such as theme, scope, pacing, genre, metaphor, imagery, allusion, and structure in the creation.
- technical features of writing, such as dialogue, voice, tone, syntax, and rhythm.
- higher order concepts of photography, such as landscape, portraiture, figure, staged/tableaux, candid/decisive moment, snapshot, and digital vs. analog.
- technical features of photography, such as framing, exposure, lighting, printing, and zine making.

Course Assignments and Grading

Assignments (briefly described)	% of Course Grade
Project One: Camera Obscura as object and metaphor	10%
Project Two: Humans of Harrisonburg	10%
Project Three: Zines and Subcultures	10%
Project Four: Photo Essays and Audio Narration	10%
Major Project I: Expansion or Combination of Elements from prior projects.	20%

Major Project II: Self-directed project	25%
Process and Practice Journal: This project is an ongoing creative space for you to experiment with ideas and make connections between course concepts and your experience.	10%
Course Investment: This is an assessment of your authentic effort and participation in classroom activities, conferences, and projects. We are looking to see you maximize the time spent in class and demonstrate deep engagement with both the course material and the classroom community.	5%

Course Schedule of Projects and Major Deadlines

Unit	Topics	Assignments and Readings
Week 1:		https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/a-thousand-words-writing-from-photographs
Week 2:		Project 1 Due
Week 3		
Week 4		Project 2 Due
Week 5:		
Week 6		Project 3 Due
Week 7:		
Week 8:		Project 4 Due
	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9:	Wendy Ewald visit	
Week 10:		

Week 11		Major Project I
Week 12:		
Week 13:	Wendy Ewald visit	
Week 14:		Major Project II
Week 15:		Class Exhibition April 23rd

Course Policies

Technology and Attention: Unless we are using phones or laptops as part of an in-class activity, please keep them away, closed, and silent. You will be given mindfulness meditation training to enhance your ability to maintain attention and manage distraction.

Registration:

Students are responsible for registering for classes and for verifying their class schedules on e-campus. The last day to drop a Fall Semester course without penalty is 1/15/19. The last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" is 3/15/19.

Please read over the full [explanation](#) of registration deadlines.

Withdrawals:

A student may withdraw from a course via e-campus prior to the course adjustment deadline and receive a "W" grade. After the course adjustment period, a student may request a withdrawal directly from the instructor of a course. If the faculty member approves the withdrawal, he or she may assign a "WP" grade for a student who is passing the course at the time of the withdrawal request or a "WF" grade for

a student who is failing the course at the time of the withdrawal request. Assignment of the “WP” or “WF” grade is solely at the discretion of the instructor after discussion with the student. The instructor will assign the “WP” or “WF” grade at the time final grades are entered. As an alternative to granting the late course withdrawal with a “WP” or “WF” grade, the instructor may also deny a student’s request for withdrawal after the course adjustment deadline. In this case, the student would be expected to remain in class and receive an earned grade at the end of the semester.

Honor Code:

Students should adhere to the [JMU Honor Code](#) concerning academic dishonesty. Students are expected to abide by its precepts at all times. I distinguish between *intentional* and *unintentional* plagiarism. **If a student *intentionally* plagiarizes in a paper or is found being dishonest on an assignment for this class he or she will receive an F for the course.** Forms of academic dishonesty include the following:

Collusion-- lending your work to another person to submit it as his or her own;

Fabrication--deliberately creating false information on a works cited or reference page, and

Plagiarism--the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not.

Attendance Policy:

College of Arts and Letters Policy Concerning Absences during the First Week of the Semester:

- Any student registered for this class who does not attend the first two (2) scheduled meetings of the class will be administratively dropped from this course. Students dropped for non-attendance will be notified via e-mail by the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

- Students who fail to attend the first two meetings of class but who do not receive an e-mail notification have not been administratively dropped. Unless those students drop the course on their own, they will receive a grade at the end of the semester.
- All students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their schedules and changes made in their schedule via e-mail and through the web at <http://www.jmu.edu/registrar>.

Grading Scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-
98-100	94-97	90-93	88-89	84-87	80-83	78-79	74-77	70-73

Materials List

Toolbox/bag for supplies

Xacto knife with blades

Black electrical tape

Masking tape

Tacky glue

Self-healing cutting matt

Foam core

Bristol board

Small Sketchbook

Other supplies as required for specific projects

Late Work

Work that is turned in after the due date will not receive full credit. Assignments will lose 10 percentage points for each day they are late. If you feel that an emergency might prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, please contact me in advance of the due date.

Disability Accommodations

JMU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services for students with disabilities. The office is located on the first floor of the Student Success Center and you may call 540-568-6705 for more information.

Religious Observation Accommodations

All faculty are required to give reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students requesting them on grounds of religious observation. The faculty member determines what accommodations are appropriate for his/her course. Students should notify the faculty by no later than the end of the Drop-Add period the first week of the semester of potential scheduled absences and determine with the instructor if mutually acceptable alternative methods exist for completing the missed classroom time, lab or activity.