

# ART 245

## SYLLABUS & Weekly Schedule

### Documentary Photography

Class Location	Monday 11:25-2:25 Spellman Hall 115
Semester	Spring 2016
Instructor	Barbara Yontz
Email	byontz@stac.edu
Phone	845 398-4181
Class Website	barbarayontzatstac.com
Office Hours	MG 20 M 10:15-11:15, T 12:30-2:30, W 10:15-11:15

*"Photographed Images do not seem to be statements about the world so much as pieces of it."*

*Susan Sontag, On Photography*

#### Description

This course is an introduction to documentary photography, incorporating history, theory and practice. Students will study the history and theory of documentary photo as well as execute a series of projects designed to exhibit understanding of ideas. Particular attention will be paid to how images have influenced, and continue to influence, our perception of the world. The Macintosh Photoshop program will be used to edit, color correct and alter photos.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites but students must have a digital camera. No cell phones will be used.

#### Learning Outcomes

- » Demonstrate an understanding of photograph as a message making element
- » Express an understanding of document and point of view through photography.
- » Produce documentary photographs that effectively exhibit understanding of inherent meanings
- » Exhibit understanding of the effects of the documentary photography on culture.
- » Write effectively about the history and theory of documentary photography
- » **Accurately interpret documentary photo as a form of artistic expression.**
- » **Demonstrate the creative process leading to the use of documentary photography**

Materials                      Digital Camera and/or other lense based camera  
   Readings available on the class website  
   Flash drive (or similar)

Evaluation	Test, written analysis, papers, presentations	50%
	Photographs (worksheets, process, photos)	50%

No late work will be accepted. On-time work may be revised for possible grade improvement. More than 3 absences results in the failure of the course unless reinstatement is petitioned.

# ART 245 Documentary Photo

## Grade Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D									
100	95	94	90	89	87	86	83	82	80	79	77	76	73	72	70	69	65

## Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity, a commitment to honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is the foundation of the learning process. All members of the St. Thomas Aquinas College community are held to the highest standards of academic honesty. While we recognize the participatory nature of education, we take academic integrity very seriously, and the College policy on academic dishonesty details consequences that can include dismissal from the College. That policy can be found in both the Student Handbook and the College Catalog.

As a student in this class, you must demonstrate your commitment to academic integrity by submitting work which originates in your own imagination, analytical faculties, or your own knowledge, which you have done yourself, and which represents your very best efforts. When appropriate, your work should be supplemented and supported by other sources; however, you must always insure that these sources are properly cited using the recommended documentation system.

## Accommodations Statement

Students requiring accommodations for a documented disability should notify the instructor before the end of the first week of class.

## Electronic Device Policy

Faculty members at St. Thomas Aquinas College have the discretion to regulate the use of electronic devices in their classes, and students should not use such devices without the expressed consent of the professor. This policy covers cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, or any other device the use of which might constitute a distraction to the professor or to the other students in the class, as determined by the professor. Students with documented disabilities should discuss the issue of laptop use with their professor at the beginning of the semester. For more extreme cases of classroom disruption, refer to the College's Disruptive Student Policy.

does NOT put the college on notice and will NOT begin the process of STAC providing assistance or response to those possible offenses.

### Title XI Reporting

Students should be aware that faculty members are required to report certain information to the STAC's Title IX Officer. If you inform me or I witness sexual misconduct which includes: sexual harassment, sexual assault, or any gender – based discrimination, I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of STAC's Title IX Officer.

Students should also be aware that disclosing such experiences in course assignments does NOT put the college on notice and will NOT begin the process of STAC providing assistance or response to those possible offenses.

If you would like to talk to the Title IX Officer directly, you can contact Pat Pacchiana at [ppacchia@stac.edu](mailto:ppacchia@stac.edu) or call 845-398-4044. Additionally, you can also report incidents or complaints to campus security 845-398-4080. You can also find more information at [www.stac.edu/titleIX](http://www.stac.edu/titleIX).

If you would like to report a concern confidentially to a confidential counseling resource, you may speak to the following people:

Ms. Eileen Mastrovito, RN  
Director Health Services  
845.398.4242

Dr. Lou Muggeo  
Director Counseling & Psychological Services  
845.398.4174

Rabbi Daniel Pernick  
Campus Minister  
845.398.4063

Center for Safety and Change  
<http://centerforsafetyandchange.org>  
845.634.3344  
9 Johnsons Lane, New City, NY 10956

# WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Course Outline is Subject to change: Please refer to weekly class email for changes.**

<b>Spring 2016 OUTLINE</b>	<b>In Class</b> (see assignment sheet for weekly assignments)	<b>Due next class</b>
Week 1 January 25	<p>Overview of course: objectives, content and discussion of resources.</p> <p>Introduction to Documentary Photo Introduction to Photography—</p> <p>Assignment 1: 200 feet from where you sleep</p>	<p>Every week read assignment sheets provided in class and posted on website for more complete instructions.</p> <p>All articles posted to website.</p> <p>Read Article: 1. MET website on early documentary photo</p> <p>2. History-- <i>The beginning of Life: Photojournalism and the Documentary approach before World War II</i></p>
Week 2 February 1	<p><b>History</b> Discuss Documentary History, Important themes and artists</p> <p>Studio: Lighting, composition/ camera use/ contact sheets</p> <p>Assignment: Choose one photo from last week's assignment and create a series. 5 photos based on 20 feet from where you sleep.</p>	<p>Reading posted to website. Analysis sheet.</p> <p>Photos as assigned</p> <p>Photo analysis sheet</p> <p>Read Article</p> <p>2-12 <i>Engaged Observers--history</i></p>
Week 3 February 8	<p><b>Light and space</b> Formal issues in Photography. How light creates meaning. Use of space/rule of thirds.</p> <p>Studio: Photoshop for color correction</p>	<p>Photos as assigned.</p> <p>Photographer analysis Sheet.</p> <p>Read Article: <i>The Janus Face of Documentary Expression</i></p> <p>Reading National Geographic—Making a National Identity in Popular Imagery.</p>
Week 4 February 15	<p><b>Documenting People &amp; Places</b> Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>Space as subject.</p>	<p>Photos as assigned.</p> <p>Read Article:</p>

Week 5 Feb 22	<b>Documenting People &amp; Places</b> Lecture and Discussion	Photos as assigned.  Photographer analysis Sheet.
Week 6 Feb 29	<b>Documenting Conflict</b> Lecture and Discussion  Scenes of War	Photos as assigned.  Read Article: <i>Reframing Life: A Declaration of Independence</i>
Week 7 March 7	<b>Mid-term review.</b>  <b>Mid-term test on terms and artists.</b>	Photos as assigned.
March 14	<b>Spring Break.</b>	
Week 8 March 21	<b>Documenting Conflict</b> Lecture and Discussion  War Photography	Photos as assigned.  Photographer analysis Sheet.
Week 9 March 28	<b>Photos for Social Change</b> Lecture and Discussion  Social Protest	Photos as assigned.  Read Article: <i>Engaging the Big Picture: The New Photojournalism</i>
Week 10 April 4	<b>Photos for Social Change</b> Lecture and Discussion.  Documenting Social Realities	Photos as assigned.  Photographer analysis Sheet.
Week 11 April 11	<b>Documents of Everyday Life</b> Lecture and Discussion  New Trends in Documentary Photography	Photos as assigned.  Read Article: <i>MoMA website—Expanded Field and New Documentary Tradition</i>
Week 12 April 18	<b>Documents of Everyday Life</b> Lecture and Discussion.  <b>Prepare final portfolio</b> Lecture and Discussion.	Photos as assigned.  Photographer analysis Sheet.
Week 13 April 25	<b>Final portfolio and self-analysis sheets</b>	