

## **FA 409 – Topics in Advanced Photography**

6:00 – 9:00pm, Monday/Wednesday – IFT

Professor: Shannon Ebner, [sebner@usc.edu](mailto:sebner@usc.edu)

Website: <http://www.imagineallthepeople.info>

Office hours: Mondays from 12-2pm or by appointment

Office Location: IFT

Telephone: 213.743.2017

### **Course Description:**

*Topics in Advanced Photography* is a seminar style studio course. The primary focus of this course is the ongoing development of your work. Through readings, discussions, thinking and making, we will address some of the issues surrounding photography today. Over the course of the semester we will look closely at your work. We will read texts that provide a historical context for the ideas of our time. We will visit and talk with working artists about how they arrived at certain conclusions in their work, how they have come to develop critical positions, what informs their decisions and what is relevant to them and why. This course will culminate with a group exhibition. Considerable time will be devoted to the development of this exhibition. As a class you will work together to arrive at decisions through consensus, which will be challenging and fun. This class does not promise any conclusions but we will learn together and through that experience endeavor to advance.

### **Expectations AND Requirements:**

All readings are available as PDFs for download:

<http://www.imagineallthepeople.info>

**\*\* If you experience any difficulties with the website please let me know so I can resolve the issue. \*\***

**All written work must be typed.**

**You are required and expected** to attend class, follow assignments, participate in discussions and contribute to group projects.

**TEXTING DURING CLASS** is disrespectful unless in case of emergency. If you have an emergency please let me know and I will make an exception.

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1:

August 22 - Introduction / Syllabus Review / Requirements

1. Artist Questionnaire
2. The Intellectual Work (Enzo Mari)

\* Writing will be a feature of this class. For Wednesday please bring a dedicated notebook in which to write first drafts and a binder for future printouts. Writing as a two-step process. \*

August 24 - **Reviews/Proposals**

Reading for 8/29: Interview with Moyra Davey by Hannah Gregory

<http://www.thewhitereview.org/interviews/interview-with-moyra-davey/>

### Week 2:

August 29 - **Reviews/Proposals**

Reading: Interview with Moyra Davey by Elisibeth Lebovici + Jorge Luis Borges on "Blindness"

<http://bombmagazine.org/article/10094/moyra-davey>

September 01 - Discussion of Davey interviews and Borges  
Screening: MD videos (TBD)

### Week 3:

September 05 - NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

September 07 - LAB / MEETINGS

Reading: "Photography and Accident" by MD

### Week 4:

September 12 - LAB / MEETINGS

Reading: "The Wet and the Dry" from The Social Life of the Book by MD

September 14 - LAB / MEETINGS

Reading: "Index Cards" by MD

### Week 5:

September 19 - **Critique**  
September 22 - **Critique**

**Week 6:**

September 26 - **Critique**

September 28 - Presentations

**Week 7:**

October 03 - Presentations

October 05 - Presentations

**Week 8:**

October 10 - Studio Visit (TBD)

October 12 - LAB / MEETINGS

**Week 9**

October 17 - Studio Visit (TBD)

October 19 - LAB / MEETINGS

**Week 10:**

October 24 - **Critique**

October 26 - **Critique**

**Week 11:**

November 01 - Exhibition Lab

November 02 - Exhibition Lab

**Week 12:**

November 07 - Lab

November 09 - Lab

**Week 13:**

November 14 - Fieldtrip to Contact Lab

<http://www.contactla.com>

The Brewery

618 Moulton Ave, Ste E

LA, CA 90031

November 16 - Lab/Meetings

**Week 14:**

November 21 - Exhibition Lab

November 23 - No Class/Thanksgiving

**Week 15:**

November 28 - **Final Critiques/Exhibition**

November 30 - **Final Critiques/Exhibition**

\*  
\*   \*

**Attendance Policy for Photography Area:**

After missing the rough equivalent of 10% of regular class meetings (3 classes if the course meets twice per week and 2 classes if the course meets once per week) the student's grade and ability to complete the course will be negatively impacted.

- For each subsequent absence (excused or otherwise), the student's letter grade will be lowered by the following increment: 1 absence over 10% equivalent missed = the lowering of the final course grade by one full grade.
- Being absent on the day a project, quiz, paper, exam, or critique is due **can** lead to an "F" for that project, quiz, paper, exam, or critique.
- It is always the student's responsibility to seek means (if possible) to make up work missed due to absences, not the instructor's, although such recourse is not always an option due to the nature of the material covered.
- It should be understood that 100% attendance does not positively affect a final grade.
- Any falsification of attendance may be considered grounds for a violation of ethics before the University Office of Student Judicial Affairs.
- Tardies can accumulate and become equivalent to an absence (three tardies equal one absence).
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
  - Any student not in class after the first 10 minutes is considered tardy.
  - After a first warning, students who persist in the following disruptive activities: sleeping, texting, emailing or online browsing for purposes

other than class research, will result in a tardy for that class session.

- o Students will be considered absent if they leave without the instructor's approval before the class has ended or if they take un-approved breaks that last longer than 45 min.

#### **GRADING:**

- B: Regular attendance and participation in critiques and discussions/lab time  
Resulting work from lab time reflects a handle on materials and methods as well as development of ideas and concepts
- A: All of the above with exceptional work  
Work consistently exhibits intellectual risk, as well as rigor
- C: Average work, infrequent participation and attendance problems
- D: Poor work, very infrequent participation and serious attendance problems
- F: Little or no work
- Inc: This grade does not exist

30% Class participation in discussions

20% Written responses

50% Quality of work for critiques

#### **Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP.

Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

#### **Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations

both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

**Roski admissions information ◀ (Not required for MFA or PAS graduate courses)**

For information and an application to become a Fine Arts **minor**, please visit <http://roski.usc.edu/minors/> Please contact Antonio Bartolome at [anbartol@usc.edu](mailto:anbartol@usc.edu) or 213-740-7567 with any questions about a minor in the Fine Arts. To become a Fine Arts **major**, please visit [http://roski.usc.edu/undergraduate\\_programs/](http://roski.usc.edu/undergraduate_programs/) Please contact Penelope Jones at [Penelope@usc.edu](mailto:Penelope@usc.edu) or 213-740-9153 with any questions about majoring in FA. Applications are due October 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> every year."

**\* Addendum to 300 and 400 Level Syllabi**

**Artist statement**

At the close of the semester, all 300 and 400 level students are required to submit an artist statement.

**These materials are due on the last day of class.**