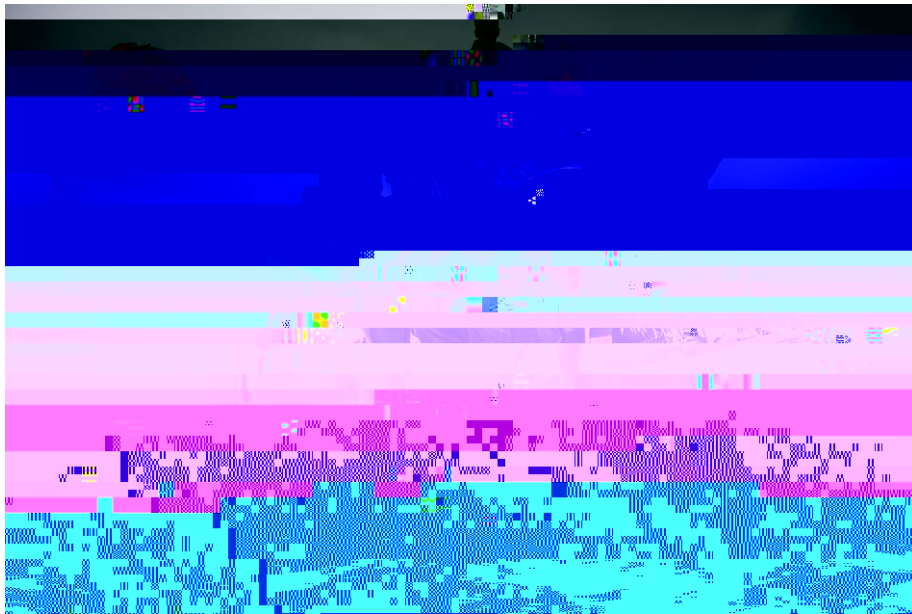


Western University, Department of Visual Arts
Seminar in Photography:
Photography and Social Change
VAH 4482F - FALL 2017
TUESDAYS 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
JOHN LABATT VISUAL ART CENTRE, ROOM 247



Sergey Ponomarev, *Refugees arrive by boat on the Greek island of Lesbos*, Nov. 16, 2015

Professor Sarah Bassnett

OFFICE – VAC 220

OFFICE HOURS – Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30pm and by appointment

EMAIL – sarah.bassnett@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many of the social and political upheavals of the late 20th and early 21st centuries are familiar to us through photographs: the Vietnam War, the civil rights protests of the 1960s, 9/11 and the subsequent war in Iraq, the war on terror, and global migration. Focusing on modern conflict, social movements, and changes brought about by globalization, this seminar explores the diverse ways photography has been used to negotiate social transformation. In the process, we look at different practices of photography – from portraiture and photojournalism to contemporary art. We discuss recent scholarship on issues such as spectatorship and the ethics of witnessing, photography as a form of encounter, and the role of iconic images in public memory. Seminar participants will develop their own research on some aspect of photography and social change, the results of which will be presented in the form of a conference paper.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

Analyze and evaluate photographs using appropriate terminology.

Conduct research using library resources, such as books and journal articles in databases, and use the sources effectively in a research essay.

Articulate an argument in writing, support the argument using appropriate evidence, and address counter-arguments.

Apply knowledge of issues and debates in photography history and theory to develop their own views, and articulate their ideas clearly in oral and written form.

Solve problems by participating constructively in group discussions and activities. This includes sharing ideas and listening respectfully to the views of others.

PREREQUISITE

The prerequisite for the course is VAH 2242F/G History of Photography. If you have not taken this course, you require permission of the Professor or the Department. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as the basis for an appeal.

ASSIGNMENTS

PARTICIPATION – 10%

The participation portion of your grade will be based on your commitment to the course, which includes your attendance, your level of preparedness, and your contribution to class discussions and other activities. Arriving late to class, leaving early, not being prepared to discuss the readings, and not participating in discussions will significantly reduce your participation mark. This portion of your grade will assess how effectively you are able to participate in discussions by sharing ideas and by listening respectfully to the views of others. The seminar format is dependent upon participation from all students. In order to encourage participation from everyone, class members will be assigned to introduce readings throughout the course.

READING RESPONSE JOURNAL – 10% (due by 11 am Nov 7)

Select five of the assigned course readings, and write a brief summary of each one, along with your own thoughts about it. These should be about 300 words each. Your summary should state the main idea of the essay, while our comments should discuss your views on the issues. Be sure to indicate the title and author for each of the readings, followed by your summary and comment. Submit one Word document with all five reading responses through the assignments link in OWL.

TEST – 25% (Nov 14)

The end-of-term test will be comprised of short answer and essay questions. It will assess your understanding of the readings and issues we have discussed throughout the course.

RESEARCH PROJECT

proposal 10% / preliminary presentation 5% / final conference paper and presentation 40%

Your research essay should focus on a series of photographs that relate to a conflict or social movement. You may choose to delve deeper into one of the topics we've discussed in class, although you should

Electronic Devices: The use of a computer in class is strongly discouraged because they often become a source of distraction for you and others. Please turn off cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used during tests or examinations.

Code of Conduct: Students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the

WRITING SUPPORT CENTRE 4100 WSSB

The Writing Support Centre is part of the Effective Writing Program at Western and is open to all registered students. It offers instruction on all aspects of writing and is not merely for students who have difficulty with writing. Most effective are the one-on-one tutoring sessions, where you can work with a tutor on course assignments. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> for details.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.