

Queens College
Art Department / Photography & Imaging
PHOTO 376
Senior Photography Seminar
Prof. Greco

Writing Assignments:

1. Write half page after reading select chapters from *Camera Lucinda*.
2. Write half page after reading select essays from *Classic Essays on Photography*.
3. Write half page response/reaction to visit to MoMA
4. Write half page after reading select chapters from *On Photography* by Susan Sontag
5. Write half page after watching the film *Waste Land* on artists collaborating with poor/nonprofessional communities. Exploitation or Benefit?
6. Write half page after reading select chapters from *The Photographer's Eye*
7. Write half page response/reaction to visit of the 2nd field trip

Writing – A Primer

These texts are at both times academic, philosophical, and nostalgic - which makes them a little difficult to read, but most of the texts we will read this semester will be difficult to read. They are examinations and explorations into the very meaning, definition, essence of what photography is and how it functions in human life. This is not easy to articulate. So, take your time with the materials, make the effort to try to understand and relate. Take notes of the parts that really make sense to you - and the parts that make no sense to you - and bring those to our discussions. I am looking for honest responses and reactions from the readings that are meant to help you situate yourself in the enormous canon of photography. Use the tools available to you to help you understand the text. Use the internet to search for interpretation and analysis of certain sections – use AI to help you understand particularly difficult sentences. But always double check and use common sense when seeking help from the interwebiverse. And never hand in anything AI gives you verbatim – it is essentially plagiarism – but use it as a good foundation to build your own thoughts upon.

Response to Readings/Watchings:

Read/watch the book/film and write a half page response/reaction paper. Take note of the question I ask you I regard to each writing. Take notes as you Read/watch the book/film on aspects that strike you as particularly interesting or sad or inspiring. This is a response/reaction paper not a research paper. I want your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the work not a synopsis. The idea is for you to find something that you connect to in the work, something that gives you pause to think and use that as inspiration for your response. Ask yourself; what is the work trying to say? What does the artist/filmmaker want me to think? Do I agree? Have I had any experiences like are portrayed in the work? Do my experiences agree with the artist/filmmaker? How does this work make me feel? Does it change the way I think?

Specifically in regard to the film *Waste Land* ask yourself if this kind of work by wealthy and famous artists exploit their subjects. Did this project benefit the subjects? Were they better off to have experienced it? Or worse off?

Response to Field Trip:

Write a half page response/reaction paper to one or more works that you see during the field trip. This is a response paper not a research paper; I want to hear your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the work, not a list of facts, figures, and dates. Ask yourself these questions: What is this a work of? What do I think the artist is trying to communicate? Does the work communicate this to me? What techniques did the artist use and did these enhance the power of the imagery? What emotional or intellectual reactions do I have to the work?

The Shooting Project Proposal:

You will write a one page project proposal that is broken into 2 paragraphs – one logistical and one conceptual. The reason I have you write a proposal is the expectation in the professional art world that you are able to write about your work. Essentially all opportunities for artists starts with some amount of writing about yourself and your work – exhibitions, residencies, grants, public art commissions, etc. all require you to write something. Persons or organizations that may provide you money or support want to know that you understand the scope of the project – logistically, financially, conceptually – such that you will be able to complete it successfully.

The first paragraph is the logistics – the nuts and bolts of your proposal. What will you photograph? Where will you photograph it? Digital or analog? What cameras and lenses will you use? What is your shooting schedule? What size prints will you make? What kind of media? Do you need to schedule models? How many and on what dates? Give me a breakdown of your workflow – what phases of the project are you going to complete by which dates? Will this project need funding? What's your budget? How will you complete the project with the budget available? Do you need to travel for the project? Do you need a studio, or do you need portable studio equipment? Think through every little detail of this project and account for it in this first paragraph.

The second paragraph should describe the conceptual value of the proposal. What is this work about? What are you trying to communicate through these images? What meanings, symbols, ideas, thoughts are you trying to portray in your work? How is this type of work relevant to you? How is it relevant to your audience? Why should we look at this work? This is an opportunity to research other photographers/artists that inspire you. Give me some examples of artists working in a similar way and with a similar message to their work. How do you compare or contrast with these artists? Being a photographer is not only about being technically adept but also understanding why you want to take pictures in the first place. Why identify as a photographer? Why photography?

Send your proposal as a Teams or Google doc so I can make edits and suggestions inline. We will work on your proposal in several rounds so at the end of the semester you will have a well written and concise proposal.

Submission: Submit your final versions of all to me as a Word doc and PDF. Format file name as follows: "first initial lastname_project proposal_fall 2024_final.docx" for example "mgreco_project proposal_fall 2024_final.docx"