Fall 2015.
SPAN 409-500: Photography in the Hispanic World
Instructor: Dr. Teresa M. Vilarós
Meeting Days/Time/ Location: T/TH; 2:20-3:35pm; HELD 119
Office: 223A, Academic Building (Located in the 219 Hall)
Office Hours: T/TH, 1:00-1:45pm, and by appointment
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Description: Study of the work produced by major photographers in Spain and Mexico, from mid-19th century origins of photography to present; theoretical, historical and critical readings; analysis of various genres, modes, and formats. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification and SPAN 202, SPAN 203 SPAN 222, or approval of instructor.

Learning Outcomes
Acquire an introductory knowledge on the history of photography in Spain and Mexico, its main trends and authors. Demonstrate knowledge of critical visual analysis, thematic composition, and photographic techniques. Recognize major authors and works.

Attendance and Make-up Policies:
Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete all assignments. Attendance and participation in discussions are required. Only university-excused absences will be accepted (see university rules on excused absences at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07) No late work will be accepted except for university-excused absences. In that case, an appropriate make-up date will be assigned to complete missed work.

HELP
Help and feedback is provided to students during office hours.

Grading Policy

-Participation in Class Discussions Showing Competency of Previously Assigned Readings _____________________________ 05%

-One Power-Point Group Presentation on a Topic Assigned by Instructor _______05%

-THREE Non-Comprehensive Exams (3x 30% each) ________________90%
  *Exam 1: Thursday, Oct 1
  *Exam 2: Thursday, Nov 5
  *Exam 3: Tuesday, December 8

  TOTAL __________100%

Grading Scale
A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: Below 60

American With Disabilities Act (ADA)
The American With Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation,
please contact Disability Services in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845 1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu

**Academic Integrity.** “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

For additional information please visit www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor

**Other Helpful Links:**

- Academic Calendar http://registrar.tamu.edu/General/Calendar.aspx
- Final Exam Schedule http://registrar.tamu.edu/General/FinalSchedule.aspx
- Student Rules http://student-rules.tamu.edu/
- Religious Observances http://dof.tamu.edu/content/religious-observance
- Center for Teaching Excellence http://cte.tamu.edu/

**SYLLABUS SPAN 409**

**Readings (Selections):**

All required readings for the class are numbered, accessible electronically via university e-mail, or through a link indicated in the syllabus. Please refer to the daily syllabus to read the appropriate numbered selection in advance of each class. Selections have been taken from:

--**Classic Essays in Photography.** - Alan Trachtenberg, ed. New Haven, CT: Leete’s Island, 1980. Essays by:
--Dalí Salvador. “Fotografía pura creación del espíritu.” Barcelona, 1927
--Fontcuberta, Joan. *Historias de la fotografía española.* Barcelona, Gustavo Gili, 2008 (excerpts)
--Whelan, Richard. “A Falling Solider, 1936.” In *This is War! Robert Capa at Work*. NT: International Center of Photography, 2007, pp. 53-87

Plus—Biographies are from the Photobolsillo Series. Links on Syllabus listed with a number are required reading or viewing.

### Calendar

**Part I. Introduction. The Origins of Photography, Early Photography, and First Theoretical Insights (Weeks 1-4)**

**Week 1 (Sept 1-3).** Readings from Allan Trachtenberg’s *Classic Essays*
- Tuesday: Introduction
  (1) Tachtenger, “Introduction”; (2) L.J. Mandé Daguerre, “Daguerreotype”
  (3) Edgar Allan Poe, “The Daguerreotype”

- Thursday: The Birth of Photography: Nadar and Baudelaire

**Week 2 (Sept 8-10).**
- Tuesday: Early Photography in Spain and Mexico
  (6A) Publio López-Mondéjar  (6B) Debroise  (6C) Ortiz Echagüe

- Thursday: Early Thoughts on Photography
  (7) Anonymous, “Is Photography a New Art?”
  (8) Marius de Zayas, “Photography and Artistic Photography” (In Trachtenberg’s *Classic Essays*)

**Part II. Photography and the Avant-garde (Weeks 6-8)**

**Week 3 (Sept 15-17).** Theoretical Propositions.
Tuesday: (9) Salvador Dalí, “La fotografía, pura creación del espíritu”
  Viewing of Luis Buñuel/Salvador Dalí’s *Le chien andalou* (in class)
Thursday:
**Week 4 (Sept 22-24).** Tina Modotti, Henry Cartier-Bresson, and Other internationalists
- Tuesday: (11) Debroise; (12) Tina Modotti Biography.  
  [http://www.modotti.com/about](http://www.modotti.com/about)
  
  In class: Tina Modotti: [https://vimeo.com/116449848](https://vimeo.com/116449848)
  
  Tina Modotti’s Photos. Analysis. See her work in advance in:

- Thursday, (13) Henry Cartier-Bresson, *The Mexican Notebooks*
  Sergei Einstein’s *Qué Viva Mexico* (1930)  
  [https://archive.org/details/QuevivaMexico](https://archive.org/details/QuevivaMexico)
  
  (In class)

**Week 5 (Sept 29-Oct 1).**
- Tuesday: (14) Manuel Alvarez Bravo  

- Thursday. (15) Lola Alvarez Bravo

**Week 6 (Oct 6-8)**

*Week 6 (Oct 6-8) Tuesday, 6: Exam 1. Multiple Choice*
Thursday: Presentations, Group 1, 2, 3


**Week 7 (Oct 13-15)**
Tuesday: (16) [http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/swphotojournalism](http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/swphotojournalism)  
(17) Richard Whelan “On Capa’s Falling Soldier, 1936”; in *This is War!,* pp. 53-87
(18) Schaber, “Gerda Taro. The Eye of Solidarity,” pp. 9-51

**Week 8 (Oct 20-22)**
(20) David Saymour “Chim”  
(20B) Susan Sontag’s *Regarding the Pain of Others*, at:

**Week 9 (Oct 27-29).** The Post War Period: Colom and Català-Roca
- Tuesday: The Post-War and Neo-Realism (21) Joan Colom’s El Raval; (22) La
- Thursday: Francesc Català-Roca
**Week 10 (Nov 3-5)**
Tuesday, 3: AT HOME Movie: (20A) “The Mexican Suitcase”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A350OL5U9t4
“La maleta Mexicana”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A350OL5U9t4


**Thursday, 5: Exam 2. Multiple Choice. Non-Comprehensive**

**Part IV. From the late 20th-Century to Today: From Film to Digital. (Weeks 11-15)**

**Week 11 (Nov 10-12); The Un-Real; Poetics of Gaze, Optical Unconscious**
- Tuesday: NO CLASS
- Thursday: Presentation. Groups 4,5,6

**Week 12 (Nov 17-19)**
- Tuesday Graciela Iturbide and The Poetics of Gaze
  (24C) [http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic520549.files/BarthesLate.pdf](http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic520549.files/BarthesLate.pdf)

**From Analog to Digital to Installation:**


- Thursday: From Digital to Installation: Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

**Week 13 (Nov 24). Narco-Culture.**
- Tuesday: Shaul Schwartz.
  (30) [http://www.shaulschwarz.com/#/photography/narco-culture](http://www.shaulschwarz.com/#/photography/narco-culture)
**Week 14 (Dec 1-3)**
- Tuesday: Presentations Groups 7,8,9
- Thursday: Review and Evaluation

**Week 15 (Dec 8)**
- Tuesday, Dec 8. Redefined Thursday Day. Exam 3, Multiple Choice. Non-Comprehensive