

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Course Number: HNR ~~2XX~~ 21D Class/Lect. Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 Credits: 3 Dept.: AHSS/Honors Program
Course Title: Picturing Atrocity: Images of War and Its Aftermath Semester: Fall Year: 2016

Course Description, Prerequisite, Corequisite:

Everyone living today has experienced a world with war and photography. This course will investigate how images of war have changed the social and political narrative since the birth of photography in 1839. Students will gain a deep understanding of the visual impact that images of war have had on society through the ages, and will analyze the moral and ethical dilemmas associated with this kind of representation as it has moved from the still photograph to the moving image. We will probe the historical and cultural meanings found in images of atrocity, and the important role curators, scholars, journalists and photographers play in helping form our global worldview.

Students will read the work of Susan Sontag, Ariella Azoulay, James Young, Georges Didi-Huberman, Marita Sturken, Tom Junod, among others, and will be expected to engage in philosophical and theoretical discussions during weekly colloquia. Assignments will include written response papers to weekly readings, a midterm paper, and final research project with a public presentation component.

Course activities will include guest speakers who are presently working in the field, trips to the 9/11 Museum and Memorial in NYC and area photography exhibits, where students will explore and investigate how they see and experience representations of tragedy.

Three credits Prerequisites: none.

Course Objectives	Competencies
<p>1. Investigate works of art, photography and film using an interdisciplinary approach.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Student identifies and understands a wide variety of atrocity images in the broad spectrum of contemporary discourse. • 2. Student uses visual analytical skills in various and appropriate contexts, including social, historical, political, and cultural arenas.
<p>2. Conduct independent scholarly research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Student demonstrates a strong knowledge of the research process as it directly relates to works of art & photography. • 2. Student demonstrates familiarity with appropriate methods and sources for researching works of artists and photographers, including the library, the Internet, as well as other appropriate sources.
<p>3. Synthesize information from various sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Student interprets and critiques the works of seminal contemporary and historical image-makers whose work deals directly with war and its aftermath.. • 2. Student demonstrates ability to apply in writing and group discussions information acquired through research and museum visits and other methods as related to images of war and its aftermath.
<p>4. Development of critical thinking skills appropriate to an Honors Course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Student uses clear logical patterns of thinking, argumentation, and questioning. • 2. Student is able to discern different works of art and photography, and apply basic art & photography theory. • 3. Student articulates in verbal and written responses the important role the curator, scholar, journalist and photographer play in forming our pervasive visual culture today as it relates to images of war and its aftermath.

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