

## Special Topics: Photography

Art 4391-S | 3 Credits

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

Summer 2008

Assistant Professors: Megan Jacobs & Jessica Hines

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### IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:

#### **COURSE PHILOSOPHY**

This class represents the research component of the China + Vietnam study abroad program. The aim of this course is to encourage a deeper degree of investment in the sites we visit in China and Vietnam more so than is provided in the typical “tourist experience”. Throughout this course we will question and evaluate the role of Chinese and Vietnamese art and culture in relation to its local, regional, and global audiences. As well, the research completed should recognize that we are subject to our own biases and perceptions based upon our identities as U.S. citizens. Our cultural fingerprint will be left though various humanitarian efforts: through volunteering at the Little Rose shelter (an orphanage/safe house for girls) in Saigon.

Due to the fast pace of our experience abroad, work will be required before and during the actual travel. During spring semester, and directly prior to our departure, we will meet to discuss expectations, begin assignments, and orient students to the program and culture of Asia. Upon arrival in Asia, students will continually meet with instructors to discuss the scope and conceptual direction of their individual and group projects. Many sites, ideas, and experiences will be taking place “on the road.” Our study abroad program will culminate in an open forum program evaluation.

#### **PRE-DEPARTURE EXPECTATIONS**

- PASSPORT
- CHINESE + VIETNAM VISAS
- IMMUNIZATIONS
- PRESCRIPTIONS
- DONATIONS (TOYS, ART SUPPLIES, ETC.) FOR LITTLE ROSE SHELTER

#### **PROJECTS**

You will be expected to do a great deal of individual research prior to our departure. Each student will be responsible for investigating topic/s to explore photographically during our time abroad. We will review the quality and quantity of the project proposals in advance in the days leading up to the trip to ensure a deep level of engagement. Project proposals will be due on **Friday April 11**.

The overall grade you earn, will be an evaluation of the merit of all your presentations, readings, attendance and participation.

#### **Project Proposal: Due Friday April 11**

**15%**

Write a proposal that explores your concept for the trip. This concept should be an umbrella theme that encapsulates both Vietnam and China.

#### **Pre-departure prep: web-site set up**

**10%**

**Onsite shooting** 15%

**Final Project** 60%

Your final project should explore a consistent theme/concept within China + Vietnam. Of the images you take on the trip, you'll cull your best 20 images and edit them for the web and upon returning to the U.S. will place them on your mosaic globe web-site **by June 20**. Your final presentation will be presented online.

You must at least shoot 20 rolls (720 images) during the trip. You'll make electronic contact sheets for these images and then post them on your mosaic globe web-site **by June 20**.

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Total 100%

**Students on this trip are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and respectfully. An important goal of all travel courses is to understand and appreciate other cultures. Lack of respect or inappropriate behavior will be reflected in your grade for this course and possible early return to the U.S.**

#### EVALUATION

**A: Exceptional performance, effort and accomplishment beyond expectations.**

90-100%

**B: Very good work, consistent effort and participation.**

80-89%

**C: Satisfactory work and average effort.**

70-79%

**D: Poor work and/or effort**

60-69%

**F: Unacceptable work**

59% and Below

**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, PERIOD!**

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, you should:

- Develop a deeper degree of investment in China and Vietnam than is provided in the typical "tourist experience" through photography.
- and Vietnam.
- Acknowledge biases and perceptions based upon our identity as U.S. citizens—broaden ways of seeing through the medium of photography.
- Have the experience of directly meeting the needs of orphans in Vietnam.
- Acquire a foundation of knowledge regarding historic and contemporary art and culture in China and Vietnam.
- Observe the diversity within these two countries—culturally, politically, and aesthetically.

#### ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION

Due to the brevity and intensity of this course, only in extreme situations will absences be permitted, and this will only be at the discretion of the professors. Unlike traditional classroom based education, tardies will not only hold up the group, but also might require additional expenditures as determined by the situation, I.e. plane travel, taxis, tour guides, etc. As such, any tardy will directly effect your grade, and if the situation persists professors have the authority to send students back early.

**Not having things prepared is considered an absence! In this course in particular, attendance and participation are crucial. Students should attend all required events, be on time, be prepared to work and contribute to discussions—anything else is not considered full participation.**

#### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

This is a place in which to learn, absorb, discuss, and question—to expand the depths of one’s mind through rigorous intellectual explorations. The integrity of the educational experience is diminished by cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying, or employing other modes of deceit.

**Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement will not be tolerated.** If you have any questions about academic dishonesty ask us, or in regards to a presentation or paper you may also check with the writing center (681-1383).

#### **SAFETY/ACCIDENT PROCEDURE**

##### **United States Embassy of Beijing, China**

Ambassador Clark T. Randt Jr.

Xiu Shui Bei Jie 3

100600

Tel: (86-10) 6532-3831

##### **American Embassy Hanoi**

Physical Address : 7 Lang Ha Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

Fax : 011-84-4-772-1510

##### **U.S. Consulate General**

4 Le Duan Blvd., Distric 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel: (84-8) 822-9433

##### **Betty Foy Sanders Art Department**

Trish Carter, Chair

The Arts Building

Room 2002

P.O. Box 8032

Statesboro, GA 30460-8032

##### **When calling from VN:**

Phone: 001.912.681.5358

Fax: 001.912.681.5104

Email: [pwcarter@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:pwcarter@georgiasouthern.edu)

##### **Center for International Studies**

Nancy Shumaker

1313 Forest Drive Bldg.

P.O. Box 8106

Statesboro, GA 30460-8106

**When calling from VN:**

Phone: 001.912.681.0332

Fax: 001.912.681.0824

Email: [interstd@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:interstd@georgiasouthern.edu)

**Non-emergency contact with students should be via email or done through phone cards purchasable in the U.S. or in China and Vietnam upon arrival.**

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Georgia Southern University does not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its education programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this course, contact the *Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)* 871-1566; TDD phone: 912-681-0666. This notification should occur by the middle of spring semester. As much as possible we will work to accommodate all documented disabilities, though we are limited by the locations we are traveling to.

- SDRC is located in Hampton Hall, BLDG. #5. Knight Drive, 871-1566; TDD phone: 912-681-0666

**We will make no provisions for any claim of disability that is not documented through the *Student Disability Resource Center* by the middle of Spring semester.**

**CIVILITY**

We will not allow another person to disrupt the learning of others in this class. Students are expected to communicate in a civil manner in academic interactions at all times, both in and out of the classroom. This means that interactions are to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner, which are respectful and understanding toward both peers and professors. Unbiased and non-discriminatory actions that reflect the utmost respect for one another, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability or sexual orientation are mandatory. Failure to behave in a civil manner may result in disciplinary actions as described by the Student Conduct Code.

**Agreement With Syllabus Content, Course Requirements and Expectations**

This syllabus is a contract between the professors and student to respectively provide and complete a worthy learning experience. By remaining a registered student in this course, the student has identified their understanding of the obligations set-forth in this syllabus for satisfactory completion of the course.

**Caveat:** This syllabus is subject to change. You are responsible to be aware of and adapt all changes.