

2017-18 Fall

HART 1025

Introduction to New Topographic Photography (1-credit)

Course Instructor: Mr. Leon Suen (Email: visualworker@gmail.com)
Program Officer: Vickie Wong (Rm 6401, Tel: 2358-5791; Email: vickiewong@ust.hk)
Time: Friday | 10:00-11:50 (Except 20 Oct, 10 & 17 Nov)
Sunday (3 Field works) | 17 Sep, 8 & 15 Oct
Venue: CYT-G001
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

The New Topographic photographers acknowledged people's interaction with the land by picturing built urban environments. It signaled a new approach to landscape photography that adopted an aesthetic of apparent objectivity, while taking as its subject matter the effects of humanity on the modern landscape. Students taking this course will learn about the history, development, theories and skills of "New Topographic" photography.

Camera Requirement

Students need to bring a camera to class, which need not to be a professional one, but it should be equipped with either:

- aperture priority setting (e.g. A/ Av mode) ; OR
- manual setting (M mode)

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Develop a responsive attitude towards how lands are being used and disposed for human's well-being in Hong Kong
2. Express their interpretation of the appropriateness of land use through visual image
3. Demonstrate a refined appreciation of the beauty exist in the human-made environment
4. Manage photographic skills so as to reproduce the scene they have captured in decent details
5. Describe the elements and trend in landscape photography

Syllabus and Schedule

Lesson	Date	Topics
1	1/9	Photographic technique 1 Introduction on managing exposure control, taking high dynamic images, perspective control and depth of field control through practical exercises
	8/9	No Class
2	15/9	Art history 1 Introduction on “Pictorialism” and “Realism” and its relationship to landscape photography
3	17/9	Field work 1 – Shek Kip Mei – Sham Shui Po Field trip to a suburb of Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will practice on naturalistic and realistic landscape photography - Students shall apply the theories and skills learnt in the previous weeks
4	22/9	Presentation 1 Individual presentation on field work 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the presentation will focus on students’ aesthetic and cognitive understanding on the practice of naturalistic and realistic landscape
5	29/9	New Topographic Photography’s Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss how topographic photography could be used to express one’s view towards a subject. Using 1-2 locations (e.g. Kwu Tong 古洞) as examples to illustrate the historical development and transformation on the infrastructure, town planning and urban landscape in Hong Kong. <p>Reference: artsy.net/gene/topographic-photography</p>
6	6/10	New Topographic Photography’s Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue discussion as on lesson 6
7	8/10	Field work 2 – Central A visit to Central to see the colonial land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A field study on the urban development in Hong Kong. The traces of early stage of urban development in Central, contrasting with modern high rises stand next to them. - 4 – 5 students will be formed in a group to take photos and present in lesson 9
8	13/10	Presentation 2 Groups presentation of the findings in Central visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focus on students’ aesthetic and cognitive understanding on the urban development in Hong Kong through the mean of photos

9	15/10	Field work 3 – Around Shun Yee San Tsuen, Sheung Shui Visit to a suburb area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A study on how the land is being utilized in the suburb area could enhance the well-being and livelihood of the dwellers in response to the geographical environment. - 4 – 5 students in a group. Students are encouraged to use topographical approach to study the similarities and differences of urban and suburb land use in order to develop a critical reflection on the merits and short comings of such land usage.
10	20/10	Art history 2 Brief history and development on New Topographic Photography
11	27/10	Presentation 3 Group presentation of the findings in suburb area focus on students ability to analyze and critically reflect on modern land use through photographic expression
12	3/11	Tutorial and Artist Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each student will present their ideas and structure of their final presentation based on their previous self-studies and findings in front of the class. - Students and instructor will discuss and feedback on their ideas. <p>*10 Nov Submit Photos and Artist Statement for exhibition</p>
	10 & 17/11	No Class
13	24/11	Final presentation & Exhibition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students present their report individually - Set up course-end exhibition
	30/11 or 1/12	Exhibition Take Down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take down your works and clean up exhibition site (students are subject to mark penalty if they do not clean up) - Details will be discussed in class later

Assessment Tasks

Attendance & Course Participation (20%)

Students have to be punctual and actively participate in class. Attendance will be taken 10 minutes after the beginning of each session. For each absence, students will have 1% deducted from their attendance grade (10% maximum deduction).

Presentation 1 (10%), 2 (20%) & 3 (20%)

1. Each student is required to present 1 - 3 photos in each presentation.
2. Student will present the findings based on a topic of local land use, and lead a discussion to enhance other students' understanding of the topic.

Final Project Presentation and Report (30%)

Each student will give an oral presentation and hand in a printed copy of the report made up of 1 photo and 300 – 400 words description, such that it will reflect a student's conception and argument of the appropriateness of local land use.

Assignment Submission Policy

Late submissions will be penalized by 10% of the total mark the student has achieved in that assignment. Overdue more than one week will receive no mark.

Major Learning Materials

1. *New Topographics*, Britt Salvesen, Steidl & Partners, 2009
2. *Reframing the New Topographics*, Greg foster-rice et al edit, Center Books on American Places, 2011
3. *Cities and Photography*, Jane Thomey, Routledge, 2013

Recommended Learning Materials

1. *Core Curriculum: Writings on Photography*, Tod Papageorge, Aperture, 2011
2. "Artsy": artsy.net/gene/topographic-photography

Academic Honor Code

- You must observe and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all the work you do throughout your program of study.
- As members of the University community, you have the responsibility to help maintain the academic reputation of HKUST in its academic endeavors.
- Sanctions will be imposed if you are found to have violated the regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- Regulations for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (<http://publish.ust.hk/acadreg/generalreg/index.html>)