

2021-22 Spring

HART 1025

Introduction to New Topographic Photography (1-credit)

Course Instructor:	Mr. Leon Suen (Email: visualworker@gmail.com)
Program Officer:	Mr. Jeff LAI (Email: jefflai@ust.hk)
Time:	Thursday 10:30 am -12:20 nn Saturday & Sunday (3 Field works) Details refer to course content
Venue:	CYTG009A
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 their OWN camera (**NOT smart phone**) to class, which need not to be a professional one, but it should be equipped with "Aperture priority" in the shooting mode setting (e.g. A mode or Av mode).

Assignment Submission Policy

1. All photos must be taken on for after the course started, no old photos will be accepted.
2. All photos must be taken in the highest resolution setting of your camera.
3. Submit the original photos without any editing, cropping, nor resizing.
4. Rename every photo with your name and append it with three digits numbering in ascending order. (E.g.: LeonSuenShuKwan001.jpg, LeonSuenShuKwan002.jpg LeonSuenShuKwan099.jpg etc.)

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	10 Feb	Photographic technique 1 Introduction on managing exposure control, taking high dynamic images, perspective control and depth of field control through practical exercises
2	17 Feb	Art history 1 Introduction on “Pictorialism” and “Realism” and its relationship to landscape photography
3	19 Feb (Sat)	Field work 1 –Tseng Lan Shue, Sai Kung An suburb area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will practice on naturalistic and realistic landscape photography - And at the same time observe the way land being used in the suburb
4	24 Feb	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	3 Mar	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. Reference: https://www.artsy.net/gene/topographic-photography
6	10 Mar	New Topographic Photography’s Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue discussion as on lesson 5
	17 Mar	No Class
7	20 Mar (Sun)	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.
8	24 Mar	Presentation 2 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 photos they have taken.

	31 Mar	No class
9	3 Apr	Field work 3 – Yue Man Square, Kwun Tong Urban re-development - A case study. - 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	7 Apr	Presentation 3 Group presentation of the findings
	14 Apr	No Class
11	21 Apr	Artist Statement - 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. Exhibition Photos submission Deadline: 19 April (Tuesday, before 12nn). Artist statement submission deadline: 21 Apr (Thur, before 7pm)
12	28 Apr	Exhibition Set up - Set up course-end exhibition
13	5 May	Exhibition Critique & Exhibition Dismantling (Classroom) Students are required to take down their works and clean up the exhibition site* <i>*students are subject to make penalty if they do not clean up</i>

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 has to hand in a final project with no less than three photos and an artist statement to illustrate his/her understanding of the way land being appropriated in Hong Kong. This work will be presented in an exhibition inside the campus.

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.

Recommended Learning Materials

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

Supplementary 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>)