

Instructor: Katherine Bridgman, Ph.D.

Phone: (210) 784-2236

Email: Katherine.Bridgman@tamusa.edu

- *Student emails will receive a reply within two business days. If you do not hear back from me within this timeframe, please confirm that I received your email.*

Office: Classroom Hall 326

Office Hours:

- Tuesdays: 12-2 pm
- Thursdays: 12-2 pm
- Fridays: 10-1 pm
- Gladly by appointment

Course Web Site: <http://tamusa.blackboard.com/>

Catalog Description: Study of film, television, advertising, graphic novels, and/or photography as well as current theory. Includes extensive analysis of key aspects of contemporary culture that rely on visual images. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Writing, and Math.

This course: Visual culture is all around us and continually in a state of becoming. However, like the air we breathe, sometimes it can escape our notice while simultaneously shaping the world in which we live. This course provides both a disciplinary introduction to Visual Studies as well as a series of case studies that invite students to dive deeper into several of the interdisciplinary subfields of Visual Studies.

Student learning outcomes

- Understand the broad project of Visual Studies and several of its interdisciplinary subfields
- Apply understandings of vision and sight as historically and culturally situated processes
- Analyze images with an understanding of their meaning-making capacities
- Create images to make meaning

Required Texts

All readings are available through Blackboard.

These texts will not be made available to students through Blackboard. Students wanting paper copies of these texts should contact the instructor via email.

Technology

If you have a laptop computer, please bring it to class each meeting. If you do not have a laptop, another device such as a tablet or smartphone that enables you to get online is acceptable for regular class meetings. Please let me know if you do not have access to a laptop, tablet, or smartphone that you can use during class.

All work, including work that either draws directly from Generative AI or work that was created in collaboration with Generative AI must be cited. If you are using a Generative AI platform to support your work in this class, prompt the platform for a citation that includes the prompts you used for your work.

Grade Breakdown

This course will use labor-based grading. Grading this way is meant to encourage students' openness to new material and experimentation without fear of failure. Failure is a very productive space in a course such as this. Labor-based grading creates a space where students can lean into this without productive failure in the class equating to a failing grade.

Civility Code: I will conduct this class with the assumption that you will treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of whether or not you agree with what others have to say. By far the most educational (and oftentimes rewarding) aspect of the college experience is the exposure we receive to diverse ideas, attitudes, and knowledge through our peers and teachers. In conjunction with this statement, please remember that genuine appreciation for individual differences (religious, racial, cultural, etc) is essential to the environment of learning. Respect involves maintaining professional and appropriate behavior towards your professor and your peers.

Attendance: It is your responsibility to get the assignments, class notes, and course changes from a classmate if you miss a class. It is also your responsibility to keep track of and to complete the missing work. In-class work cannot be made up.

Conferences: I encourage you to use my office hours frequently to discuss any aspect of the course that you may have questions about: clarification of my expectations or your grades, comments on papers, general or specific questions about the course material, papers in progress, ideas, etc. I recommend you meet with me early in the semester as one-on-one help and individual attention very often results in a deeper understanding of course materials and a clearer expression of that understanding in your writing. One meeting with me is required in this course.