

Assignment 3

Life Stories of Photographers

Writing About Images

GNED 1404

Mount Royal University

2019

Dr. J. Ashley Nixon

Assignment 3: Perception and the Photographer (Introduction)

This assignment is designed for you to write an article about images in the context of how the experiences, background, personality and development of a photographer influence the ways in which they perceive, interpret and shoot images. In essence, it is an examination of the extent to which photographic images come from the photographer more than from the subject.

THE STATEMENT

A photograph is shaped more by the person behind the camera than by what is in front of them.

Assignment 3: Written article (20 marks)

1. Select a photographer from any *named* genre who has, or has had, public recognition for their photographic work and write an article of ***no more than 1500 words*** about their life and work.
2. Create an imaginative title; include your name, photos (with captions, copyright information and/or references) and references to the literature consulted **(2 marks)**
3. State, describe and examine the **genre and subject matter** of these images (consider, for example type of subject(s), location or setting, artistic values, political, social or other significance) **(4 marks)**
4. Research and describe those aspects of the **photographer's life** (e.g. background, experiences, personality) that you believe have been influential in their style of photography **(4 marks)**
5. Research, select and include a range of photographs (3-6) that represent the photographer's most important subjects (body of work). Clearly explain why you chose these images and incorporate the opinions of others **(4 marks)**
6. Explain, within the context of this photographer's work and images selected, whether you support, refute or "sit on the fence" with respect to the "**Statement**". Illustrate your answer by specific reference to life events, character traits and photographic products that you have introduced in your answer to Parts 3,4,5 **(6 marks)**

Assignment 3: Presentation (10 marks)

1. Prepare a 6-10 min presentation based on your article to give in class on (dates to confirm) **(10 marks)**
 - State your chosen topic and give its creative title in your opening slide
 - Provide highlights of the life and work of the photographer
 - Comment on your chosen images: why you selected them; and why/how their inclusion supports your argument either in support, or otherwise, for the ***“The Statement”***
 - Create **two** questions and pose these to your audience in a way that generates further interest and understanding around your presentation

Assignment 3: Deliverables

- **Assignment set:** See course schedule
- **Assignment due** (written article): See course schedule
 - Provide an electronic copy, posted on Blackboard *and* a printed copy, type written (double-spaced, single -sided and in an easily readable font such as Times New Roman or Garamond (11 or 12 point)
 - Sources should be referenced using standard format (keep separate to the article)
 - See notes on academic honesty in the course outline
 - Carefully proof read and edit your work before submitting
- **Presentations:** will take place on (schedule to follow):
- Assignment marks will be awarded for the article (20) and the presentation (10) Total Marks = 30 (30% of overall course mark)

Selection of photographers*

- Man Ray
- André Kertész
- Berenice Abbott
- Weegee
- Brassai
- Ansel Adams
- Diane Arbus
- Bill Brandt
- William Eggleston
- Don McCullin
- Horst P. Horst
- Manuel Álvarez Bravo
- Lewis Baltz
- Annie Liebovitz
- Henri Cartier-Bresson
- Helen Levitt
- Bill Brandt
- Alfred Eisenstaedt
- W. Eugene Smith
- Richard Avedon
- Robert Frank
- Garry Winogrand
- Peter Magubane
- Lee Friedlander
- Cecil Beaton
- Erwin Blumenfeld
- Helmut Newton
- Nick Brandt
- John Rankin Waddell
- Edward Burtynsky
- David duChemin
- Graciela Iturbide
- Nobuyoshi Araki
- Lee Miller
- Carrie Mae Weems
- Andreas Gursky
- Liu Zheng
- Martin Parr
- Mary Ellen Mark
- Sally Mann
- Cristina García Rodero
- Josef Koudelka
- Walker Evans
- David Bailey
- Jeff Wall
- Diane Arbus
- Ted Grant
- Larry Burrows
- Shomei Tomatsu
- Guy Bourdin
- Malick Sidibé
- Hamidou Maiga
- Robert Adams
- Imogen Cunningham
- Vivian Maier
- Susan Meiselas
- An-My Lê
- Shirana Shahbazi
- Dayanita Singh

* Other photographers may be used but please consult your instructor first and see the “exclusion list” (next slide).

Excluded photographers*

- Alex Webb
- Martin Chambi
- Anthony Hernandez
- Cindy Sherman
- Dorothea Lange
- Robert Capa
- Gerda Taro
- Julia Fullerton-Batten
- Phillippe Halsman
- Steve McCurry

* These are all very fine and famous photographers but their life stories are covered in some way(s) in the course materials and for that reason alone are excluded from this assignment