FYS 100: Nature, Environments, and Place in American Thought

Curated Group Photo Essay

Elements of a photo essay

1) Tell a story appropriate to your theme
   a. Chronological narrative
   b. Human dimensions of larger trends (promotes social action)
      i. Close-ups emphasize difference (exotic) or sameness (empathy)
      ii. People in large frame for perspective
   c. Connect images as different facets or angles on a complex or contentious theme

2) Limited but suggestive wording
   a. Larger theme explained in introduction, illustrated and examined through images
   b. Identifying information and context to help viewer “read” the image (place, date)
   c. Descriptive observation of setting or your experience taking the photograph

3) Carefully collected images—save to your desktop and upload to Omeka
   a. Take photos with your own device
   b. Find photos on the internet. Make sure the image in available in the public domain and always record the URL.
   c. Search digital archives: digitalforsyth.org and museums’ digital collections
   d. Architectural drawings, plans, Sanborn maps [Forsyth County Public Library]

Assessment

Content:

• Introduction should: 1) introduce and explain the common theme or idea; 2) specifically address an established intellectual tradition on the theme; 3) explain your image selection process in terms of your main interpretive goals and connections you want to emphasize.
• Image selection matches stated aims
• Captions convey the appropriate tone to achieve the goals as explained in the introduction
• Introduction, images, and captions build a coherent theme

Mechanics:

• Introduction essay 450–500 words; all captions less than 500 total
• Writing is carefully revised and devoid of grammatical and spelling errors
• 4–6 images, properly uploaded and captioned
• Images displayed clearly, framed, and cropped
• Consistency in image description fields: follow the same practice within that field for each item (e.g. Photographer’s first and last name, lifespan)
• Complete information on source of each photo (photographer and source URL)

Group collaboration: Peer assessment will make up 20% of grade on the assignment
Please evaluate each performance from 0-3.

Basis for evaluation in each category:

1 → Unacceptable performance, damaging to group progress
2 → Unreliable and/or unhelpful performance
3 → Adequate but irregular performance with minor follow-up required
4 → Consistently Acceptable Performance

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Your Name        Name        Name        Name

________________________  ________________  ______________  ______________

1. Attended meeting(s) ______  ______  ______  ______

2. Contributed to meetings and helped make decisions ______  ______  ______  ______

3. Accepted responsibilities ______  ______  ______  ______

4. Completed tasks on time ______  ______  ______  ______

5. Positive working attitude ______  ______  ______  ______

TOTAL (sum): ______  ______  ______  ______

Additional remarks on individual performances or the group as a whole: