Honors 122 | Reading the Arts  
Spring 2018 | MW 9:00-10:15am | Art and Design Building 1021  
Instructor: Heather Anderson | Buchanan Hall D203B | handers4@gmu.edu  
Office hours: By appointment (email me to set up an appointment)

Resources (Required):
- Reading Assignments as assigned (see class schedule)
  - All readings will be posted to the class Blackboard site.
- Video Assignment as assigned (see class schedule)
  - All video lectures can be found at lynda.gmu.edu (sign in with your Mason credentials).

Costs (Required):
- Printing (standard stuff like readings and papers)
- Printing (for your final portfolio, around $20)
- Memory Sticks (2 - 1GB or more)

Course Description:
This is an experimental hybrid course. It includes a lecture/classroom component and recitation/studio component. The course will explore the history of photography and photographic manipulation before and after the use of digital photography and image manipulation software, as well as developing an understanding of basic design and Photoshop skills. Both portions of the course assume little to no knowledge of the history of photography or Photoshop.

Course Objectives:
During this course students will:
- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of visual art, specifically manipulated photography, and its historical and contemporary context
- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of Photoshop
- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of visual design
- Develop and demonstrate research, writing, discussion
- Develop and demonstrate critical thinking skills in the context of visual communication

Homework:
To allow for more time in class this course requires that students view instructional videos and complete further assignments, including working in Photoshop, outside of class. To maintain the pace and structure of the course students are expected to come to class having viewed the videos assigned for that day, taken quizzes, and completed homework. If you feel you are unable to keep up with the work as assigned let your instructor know as soon as possible.

Software Access:
To access Photoshop outside of the scheduled class time visit the Mason Student Technology Assistance and Resource (STAR) Lab on the second floor of the Johnson Center, room 229. Since this lab is not 24-hours access please plan the time you need to work on your assignments accordingly.

Star Lab Hours
**Fall and Spring**
Monday thru Thursday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Semester Breaks**
Monday thru Friday: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

**Email Access:**
Be sure to access your GMU account and to have your GMU email forwarded to any other email account you might use. I will only send information about this course to your official GMU email account.

**Late Work:**
Late work will be accepted, but the grade for the assignment will be dropped one full letter grade for every business day it is late. Work is always due at the beginning of class (with the exception of in-class assignments). If it is not turned in at the beginning of class, it is considered one business day late.

**Attendance:**
Attendance is of utmost importance if you wish to do well in this course. The ability to comprehend, analyze, and summarize lecture material (as well as visual and written material) will be crucial for the creation of critical analysis of the artwork we will review in class and to complete the Photoshop assignments. It will not be possible to reconstruct lectures from the assigned readings. Students are expected to come to class prepared to work during in-class studio sessions.

Students are responsible for all information given during class meetings. I recommend that you exchange contact information with a fellow student so that if you need to miss class for some reason you will be able to get an update on due dates and the lecture and discussions for that day. If you do have a medical or family emergency or feel that you are having difficulty keeping up with course requirements please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

**Participation:**
Participation is a vital part of this course. It is not only part of your grade, but also an important part of the learning experience. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the courses readings and subjects covered in class with well-thought-out and examined questions and comments. Students will also be expected to bring materials (not in the syllabus) to class on studio days so that they can work for the entire course period.

**Class Conduct and Course Content:**
This class will include material that some students may find controversial or offensive. If you have concerns about the content of the course, please see me during the first two weeks of the semester. If you do not come to see me about your concerns within the first two weeks of the semester, I will assume you are comfortable with the course content and are prepared to complete all assignments, do all readings, and attend all lectures as laid out in the syllabus, readings, and course schedule.

Because of the potential sensitive nature of the course contents, it is important that in-class discussions and any work generated for the course be respectful and conducted in a professional manner.

**Honor Code and Academic Honesty:**
When submitting work under your own name, please keep in mind that plagiarism is a violation of the GMU Honor Code. Plagiarism means using words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. If you use another person’s ideas or information
you must cite, using standard citation format, all sources that your own writing draws on, either
directly or indirectly.

Also note that un-cited sources will constitute plagiarism even if they ended up in your work without
your conscious knowledge (for example, you forgot you read the material or you confused your own
notes with notes on a source), since part of the scholarly responsibility that comes with using
secondary sources is keeping track of which words or ideas were yours and which came from another
source.

The George Mason University Honors Code will be followed for this course. Please see the
University Catalog for a full description of the Code.

Disability Accommodations:
Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please
contact Disability Services if you require accommodations:

Office of Disability Services
Student Union Building 1, Room 222
Phone: 703.993.2474

Grading:
- Participation, Quizzes, and Exercises: 30%
- Photoshop Assignments: 30%
- Final Portfolio: 40%

Assignments:
Below is a summary of the assignments for the semester. More specific assignment instructions will
be given for each assignment. You will be expected to complete the assignments as outlined in the
more specific assignments.

- Participation and Quizzes: Students will be expected to participate and work in class (and
come prepared with work completed to do so), complete exercises, and quizzes both in and
outside of class.

- Photoshop Assignments: Students will complete Photoshop assignments throughout the
semester that are linked to the skills they learn about Photoshop, image manipulation, and
visual design. Each assignment will also have an accompanying artist statement focusing on
the intent of the image and how it was created/the intent was fulfilled.

- Final Portfolio:
  - Final Project: A final visual project of their own design (with approval from
    instructor)
  - Final Paper: A final paper on your understanding of photographic manipulation
    (narrowed to a specific aspect of the topic with approval from instructor).
  - The final portfolio will also contain previous course projects and a final course
    reflection.