WEB ACCESS
All students will be assigned a WebCT account for online access to the course, which will contain all online reading materials, discussion questions, lecture supplements, exam questions, online videos, professor e-mail access, assignment submission tools, and suggested links.

PROFESSORS
Daniel Bass
bassd@fiu.edu, Religious Studies, DM 301, Office hrs. T 12:30-1:30, or by appt. 305-348-2186

Ann Goraczko
goraczko@fiu.edu, IPOR, SJMC, HM 246, Office hrs. at UP by appt. 305-919-5711

Jim Riach
WebCT course mail, Env. Studies, ECS 3335, Office hrs. M/W 11-12 or by appt. 305-348-1930

Ibrahim Tansel
tanseli@fiu.edu, Mech. & Mat. Eng., EC 3473, Office hrs T/R 2:30-5:00 or by appt. 305-348-3304

READINGS
All students are expected to have completed the required readings for the lecture day in which they are listed in the schedule. The following book is available at the FIU bookstore and online retailers:


Additional links, PDF articles, and other material will be available online via WebCT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This semester you will “Inhabit Other Lives” through the process of expanding your visual literacy, or competence in the knowledge about and the production and consumption of visual information. The interdisciplinary nature of visual literacy will allow you to explore linkages between technology, photography, art, social issues, science, psychology, the unconscious mind and more! You will inhabit the lives of the people who make, use, abuse, and are affected positively and negatively by the various forms of visual information in our world today. Finally, you will be asked to provide a presentation allow the audience to Inhabit Other Lives through you.
GRADING
Assignments  15%
Participation  25%
First exam     25%
Second exam    15%
Student Presentation  35%

Assignments
Five times during the semester, you will complete an assignment, including one quiz, one essay, one photo essay, one poster and one dream analysis. Details about each assignment will be posted on WebCT. These assignments will also help form the basis for class discussion on their due dates.

Participation
We expect each of you to actively participate in various class activities, contributing original ideas, asking/answering questions and constructively debating topics. To do this successfully you must come to class having read all materials assigned that week.

First Exam
A take-home, exam will be posted on WebCT, and scheduled to be submitted using the “assignment” tool on WebCT. Students are required to print a hardcopy as well. The exam is due at the beginning of class on Thursday February 22.

Second Exam-WebCT Discussion Forum
Students from each instructor group will be placed into 5 smaller discussion groups within the WebCT discussion forum. All instructors will contribute to the discussion questions to be addressed by the students in these small groups. The questions will cover material that spans multiple lectures. These questions will not be graded as right or wrong, but on how well students analyzed and discussed issues raised in these questions. A rubric for assessing the discussion will be given to students indicating timelines for posting and replying to other posts and how the quality of a post will be assessed. Students will have 2 weeks to complete the assignment. Each small discussion group will select a leader that, in the small breakout class, will summarize their discussion and the whole group will then contribute their perspectives. The exam should be finished before the beginning of class on Thursday April 5.

Student Presentations
Each student will have to present a student project in class during the last three weeks of the semester. There are no specified topics, nor formats for the presentation, but students must provide a one page proposal indicating how their presentation expresses the idea of “Inhabiting Other Lives,” citing relevant sources. The proposal must be submitted by the beginning of class Thursday March 15.

POLICIES
Absences
We realize that life is full of unexpected events that can prevent you from attending class, but assume that three unexpected absences in the semester may cover these unexpected absences and do not require notification for these absences. If you have more than three non-notified absences however, your final grade will be lowered a whole letter grade and every subsequent absence thereafter will result in a reduction of a half letter grade (e.g. B- becomes a C+). If you know you will be absent for an appropriate
reason, you must notify your professor in advance and/or produce proper documentation. If you feel that
the class environment prohibits you from participating, please feel free to discuss it with one of the
professors.

Academic Misconduct
Every student must respect the right of all to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly
demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic
conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the
University. Students should refer to the Honors College Plagiarism Policy:
http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html

Professors may use the online service, Turnitin.com, to check your papers for plagiarism. Students agree
that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to
Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents
in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

SCHEDULE
Week 1
1/9 Discussion: Welcome back – preview to the course
1/11 Lecture: Cameras, digital photography and taking pictures
Readings (in WebCT): Roland Barthes, Camera Lucida; Dennis P. Curtin, A Short Course in Using Your
Digital Camera; Simon Joinson, Canon PowerShot G7 Review; Shawn Barnett & Stephanie Boozer
Canon PowerShot G7

Week 2
1/16 Discussion: Cameras, digital photography and taking pictures
Assignment: Quiz on cameras, digital photography and taking pictures
1/18 Lecture: National Geographic critical review

Week 3
1/23 Discussion: National Geographic critical review
1/25 Lecture: National Geographic critical review

Week 4
1/30 Discussion: National Geographic critical review
Assignment: Essay analyzing photos in current National Geographic magazine
2/1 Lecture: Images of Identity
Readings: ??

Week 5
2/6  Discussion: Images of Identity

2/8  Lecture: Guest Lecture

Week 6
2/13  Discussion: Guest Lecture
Assignment: Photo Essay on Inhabiting Others’ Lives at FIU

2/15  NO CLASS - Wolfsonian visit
Assignment: First Exam Questions posted

Week 7
2/20  Discussion: Wolfsonian visit

2/22  Lecture: Posters: History and Health
Readings: ??
Assignment: FIRST EXAM DUE

Week 8
2/27  Discussion: Posters: History and Health
Assignment: Poster of your own design

3/1  Lecture: Symbols and symbolism in dreams
Readings (in WebCT): Theresa Cheung, Introduction (to dreams); Mary A. Carskadon, ed., topical excerpts from the Encyclopedia of Sleep and Dreaming; Web links provided in WebCT

Week 9
3/6  Discussion: Symbols and symbolism in dreams
Assignment: Analysis of visual literacy of dreams

3/8  Lecture: GPS + GIS
Readings: Royal School of Artillery, The NAVSTAR Global Positioning System, Read p. 1-3 and review the rest; Groundspeak, Geocaching - The Official Global GPS Cache Hunt Site, Review the site

Week 10
3/13  Discussion: GPS + GIS

3/15  Lecture: Visuals and learning
Readings (in WebCT): Tony Schirato and Jen Webb, Reading the Visual; James Elkins, What is Visual Literacy; Paul Martin-Lester, Web links provided in WebCT
Assignment: Presentation Proposal Due

Week 11
3/20  NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK
3/22  NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

Week 12
3/27  Discussion: Project planning
Assignment: Second exam questions posted

3/29  Guest Lecture

Week 13
4/3  Discussion: Student Projects Exhibition

4/5  Lecture: Student Projects Exhibition
Assignment: SECOND EXAM DUE

Week 14
4/10 Discussion: Student Projects Exhibition

4/12 Lecture: Student Projects Exhibition

Week 15
4/17 Discussion: Student Projects Exhibitions

4/19 Student Projects Exhibitions
Assignment: Final Projects due