



Course

SPRING 2007

HUMANITIES 596

VISUAL DOCUMENTATION PRAXIS

(5 credits)

Instructors:

Danny Hoffman, Anthropology

Kari Lerum, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences

Lecture: M: 9:00 am – 12:20 pm, Communications 202

This course will explore a diverse range of visual practices, from video activism to graphic political journalism. At a time when so much knowledge transmission outside the university depends on the production and circulation of images, students will focus on building the skills and the relationships to participate meaningfully as scholars, activists, and partners. Participants will explore how literature from visual anthropology and sociology, participatory action research, and activist ethnography intersects with efforts to democratize visual technologies and techniques. Drawing from examples on and off campus, we will consider how new visual technologies can generate alternative community archives. Through visual production exercises, on-site visits with collaborating institutions, and classroom discussion, students will explore how visual production can expand their research interests and forge unexpected connections within and beyond the university. By translating their “vision” of research from text to digital videos and photographs, participants will consider how their work intersects with other spheres of visual production, from public access television to grassroots community documentary and video activism programs.

This course is part of a year-long series of talks, workshops, and courses developed as a collaboration between the cross-institutional *Cultural Studies Praxis Collective* and the Simpson Center’s *Institute on the Public Humanities for Doctoral Students*. The series focuses on building arts and cultural bridges for research and teaching that enable and enhance various forms of public scholarship. For more information, contact **Bruce Burgett** (burgett@u.washington.edu) or **Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren** (kkochar@uwb.edu).