

PSY 210: Special Topics – PHOTOVOICE

2.0 Credits

Enrollment Cap: 20

Meeting Schedule and Location:

09/01/2020-12/08/2020 Lecture Tuesday 01:00PM - 02:35PM, Carnegie Hall, Room 205

Pre-requisites: Permission of the instructor. PSY 150 (Introductory Psychology); ENG 180 (Writing) or equivalent. Sophomores and above (at least two courses in their major strongly recommended).

Permissions: Students should email doctorboo@pacificu.edu with their interest in this course for consideration of permission.

Description: Photovoice is a qualitative method of social research, social justice action, and community building with multiple applications. “Photovoice is a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique” (Wang & Burris, 1997). Photovoice (PV) is a form of participatory action research where visual images are solicited from members of a community or group. Because of increasing access to social media and other platforms, discussions can be conducted via in-person focus-groups or online. We create questions and ask participants to “answer” through their photography they post or present. We meet with them regularly and ask them to discuss the photos they created and their thoughts related to the questions as part of a group. This process is applied to policy change, community action, and participants’ own empowerment.

Examples could include:

- Photos of Protectors on Mauna Kea and the creation of their own ‘nation’
- Aging/Elders experiences of “shelter in place” during COVID-19
- Visitor experiences to other cultures/countries: PH 265 and PH 465: Aotearoa – Culture and Health in Spring, 2021 course will use this technique in their course.
- Sustainability Practices in your community/neighborhood
- Social Distancing and Farmers’ Markets practices
- Biophilic design and feelings of well-being
- How culture is “practiced” in a community
- What does “sense of belonging” mean for marginalized students?

In this two credit course students will be introduced to fundamentals of theory, ethics,

and methods of PV as they apply to common psychological issues (e.g., physical health, mental-health, , diverse identities, etc.). We will review published photovoice studies and spend most of this course learning how to design some form of PV project: how to design facilitation questions; directions for photographic image production; identifying community stakeholders, ethical guidelines for conducting this type of research and best practices for disseminating findings to community stakeholders and relevant policy makers.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify primary purposes and goals of photovoice.
- Discuss ethical, and logistical considerations when conducting a photovoice project.
- Demonstrate a basic ability to facilitate a photovoice discussion and photo analysis.
- Develop a plan for disseminating photovoice data to diverse audiences (e.g., community members, policy makers).

The course is heavily participatory, discussion-based and will require students to have access to photographic technology (camera, cell phone, computer pad, etc.). Students will be expected to do weekly readings and assignments.

These student skills are essential to success in this course:

- 1) attention to detail and deadlines as the course is project based and assessments rely on completion of phases of assignments by deadlines to continue to next phase.
- 2) ability to read and provide written commentary on 10-15 pages of content per week.
- 3) ability to actively participate in course discussions and facilitation activities in small-groups.