

PLEASE PRINT AND KEEP CLOSE TO YOUR COMPUTER  
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WELCOME TO CCJN3357 - Digital Photojournalism

This is the fourth year for the beginning photojournalism class, and I hope you're as excited as I am to be part of a new era of convergence in media. It will be an exciting semester, and I urge you all to read newspapers—both online and offline, news magazines and as many online news sites as possible.

#### GENERAL COURSE

This beginning course is designed to provide journalism and broadcast majors with a basic grounding in digital photography and photojournalism. By working with digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop, students will learn how to compose, create, edit and publish photos for print and the Web in a setting that will simulate newsroom assignments and, in particular, deadlines. It will be a fast-paced and fulfilling four months.

#### REQUIRED BOOKS

There is no required text. I will use three chapters from *Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, by Kenneth Kobre.

#### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a must. If we're simulating a newsroom situation you must be present. One unexcused absence will result in a deduction of one grade; Two unexcused absences will result in elimination from class. Unless you have an OK from the department chair, this stands as written. MISSED PARTICIPATION CANNOT BE MADE UP.

## TARDINESS

Being late for class is not unlike being late for an assignment. In the real world, being late for an assignment is a sign of disrespect for the subject. In the classroom, tardiness is a sign of disrespect for the instructor and your classmates.

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

In its simplest form, academic freedom means you have the right to state your opinion without fear of retribution or ridicule. You also have the right to disagree with the views and opinions of others in a respectful and tactful manner, without fear of reprisal. The idea is to learn in a collaborative, not combative, environment. Bottom line: Be true to yourself by stating the truth as you see it, while being sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University trusts each student to maintain high standards of honesty and ethical behavior. All assignments submitted in fulfillment of course requirements must be the student's own work. All assignments except those designated as "group" are meant to be individual efforts. Team efforts should be the result of the equal contributions of all team members.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 214-768-4557 to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the instructor to make appropriate arrangements.

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify the instructor in writing at the beginning of the semester and should discuss, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

## UNIVERSITY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled university extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

## LABELING ASSIGNMENTS

It is very important that you label each assignment you hand in. Be sure to indicate the week the assignment is/was due. For example: "Week One Photo: Self Portrait"

## FORMAT OF PHOTO ASSIGNMENTS

All assigned images should be in JPEG format with the longest dimension of the photo being 10 inches at 300 dpi. Save your images at 300 dpi, copy and save again at 72 dpi. All images must be 72 dpi to be emailed. Everyone will have access to Adobe PhotoShop. If you don't have the program at home or in the dorm, use the computers in the lab.

All caption information will be attached in the FILE INFORMATION area of the JPEG. We will go over this in class. All caption information **MUST** be included in email to me. Assignments without proper information **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**.

## DEADLINES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments are due to me at 8 a.m. on Monday. You'll lose one letter grade for each day the image is late. Anything turned in after 8 a.m. loses a letter grade. Assignments that are posted late will be subject to a letter-grade deduction for each day past the due date. If they aren't posted to me by Friday of the week due they won't count.

## GRADING

There are only two exams, a midterm and a final. Each major exam will account for 25 percent of your grade. The remaining 50 percent of your grade will come from eight daily assignments and two quizzes. Each major exam is worth 25 points and each daily assignment and quiz is worth 5 points each.

There is a possible total of 100 points for the class. Grades will be determined as follows: 90 points or more, A; 80-89 points, B; 70-79 points, C; 60-69 points, D; 59 points or fewer, F. Extra credit is available for any student who gets a photograph published in the Daily Campus or its online news site.

## PHOTO GRADING CRITERIA

All assignments will be produced from digital media and processed in Photoshop. Assignments will be due each Monday at 8 a.m. via your personal Photobucket.com archive.

Because photojournalists must be able to work under the pressure of deadlines, late assignments will not be accepted unless extenuating circumstances are approved *in advance* by me.

I will evaluate your photos according to suitability for publication in a newspaper or magazine or on a news Web site whose standards correspond to the industry-wide norm. This may mean that, early in the term, some who are working hard will receive low scores, particularly for technique. Please do not be dismayed by this. Your course grade will be based upon improvement and consistent effort.

## FEEDBACK

I will post all personal feedback and grades to your email. I know feedback and grades are very important to you, so I will make comments on assignments and provide you with your grades within one week (7-days) after the completion of each assignment.

## CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Your class discussions will be treated in a "leaderless group" fashion. I will make comments from time to time, but I will be looking mostly for the quality of your comments and who really gets involved in the subject matter from the text, the lectures, and your own work experiences.

## LECTURES

All lecture material is fodder for future tests. Please pay attention—we're covering technical material and we're learning new terminology. TAKE NOTES!!! Guest lecturers from various media will visit our class occasionally. You'll be quizzed on what they cover in class.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is a schedule. It is only tentative because there must be flexibility to discuss the news events of the day and how photojournalism impacts those events. We will switch dates for certain lectures or eliminate them entirely to accommodate discussion of important news events that relate to photojournalism.

### Meeting 1:

#### **Topics:**

Student and instructor expectations.

**Assignment 1:** Shoot a self-portrait. Shoot a photo that tells me, your editor, something about you. It can be a photo of you in your dorm room, at your favorite place on or off campus, with your best friends or simply alone. Be creative, be edgy but make it a photo you can discuss with your classmates and me on Tuesday. "This is me," does not qualify as discussion.

### Meeting 2:

#### **Topics:**

Discussion of Assignment 1:

Analysis of approach, composition, lighting, etc.

Opening and saving a photo using Adobe Photoshop

Using the "File Info" feature in Adobe Photosho

How exposure works: the relationship between aperture and shutter speed. A quick primer on f-stops and shutter speeds

The exposure/focus lock feature on digital cameras

### Meeting 3:

#### **Topics:**

Syllabus review. Digital cameras: An introduction.

### Meeting 4:

#### **Topics:**

### Meeting 5:

#### **Topics:**

Lighting: Directional light, diffuse light, and artificial light: a brief primer on each.

**Assignment 2:** Shoot a photo in each type of light

### Meeting 6:

#### **Topics:**

Discussion of assignment 2

Class discussion of lighting assignment

Analysis of lighting examples

More discussion of lighting

### Meeting 7:

#### **Topics:**

**Assignment 3:** Shoot a photo at night of a dark scene without using the camera's strobe.

This should be done out of doors or in a very dark interior space. This will require adjusting your camera's ISO setting higher.

### Meeting 8:

#### **Topics:**

Discussion of assignment 3

Composition:

Framing the photo properly

- Cropping in the camera instead of Photoshop

### Meeting 9:

#### **Topics:**

**Assignment 4:** Shoot a photo that utilizes both the rule of thirds and a clean foreground and background

The rule of thirds

Distracting foregrounds and backgrounds—how to keep them clean

Converging lines

### Meeting 10:

#### **Topics:**

Discussion of assignment 4

More on composition

- Where's the horizon
- Using a zoom lens
- Understanding depth-of-field

### Meeting 11:

#### **Topics:**

The environmental portrait—a staple of photojournalism

**Assignment 5:** Shoot an environmental portrait

More Adobe Photoshop

- Working with levels
- Working with curves
- Understanding histograms
- Unsharp masking

### Meeting 12:

Discussion of Assignment 5:

#### **Topics:**

Preparing images for publication

- Publishing to a newspaper
- Publishing to the Web
- Publishing to a magazine
- Preparing a photo for printing

### Meeting 13:

#### **Topics:**

**Assignment 6:** Depth-of-field

### Meeting 14:

#### **Midterm exam**

The midterm exam will cover topics from my lectures, our shooting assignments and all previous daily quizzes.

#### **Spring Break March 12-20**

### Meeting 15:

#### **Topics:**

Discussion of Assignment 6:

**Topics:** Working with your subject

- Preparing for an assignment
- Putting your subject at ease

Creating confidence—now's not the time to pull out the owner's manual

Meeting 16:

Meeting 17:

**Topics:**

**Assignment 7:** Choice assignment—you choose

**Guest speaker: TBA**

Meeting 18:

**Topics:**

Discussion of Assignment 7

Meeting 19:

**Topics:**

**Assignment 8:** The weather photo

Meeting 20:

**Topics:**

Reading assignment: **Chapter 13: The Law**

Discussion of assignment 8

Meeting 21:

**Topics:**

**Assignment 9:** Shoot an action photo. Sports, dance, running, etc.

**Caption writing:** A well-written caption is critical information for every photo you submit to an editor. It can give your readers an increased understanding of any story.

Meeting 22:

**Topics:**

Discuss Assignment 9

Reading assignment: **Chapter 14: Ethics**

Meeting 23:

**Topics:**

**Assignment 10:**

Meeting 24:

**Topics:**

Discussion of assignment 10

Reading assignment: **Chapter 3, General News**

Meeting 25:

**Topics:** The photo story in print and online

Reading assignment: **Chapter 8, Photo Story**

**Assignment 11:**

Meeting 26:

**Topics:**

Discussion of Assignment 11

Meeting 27:

**Topics:**

**Assignment 12:** Shoot a final self-portrait

Review chapters 3,13, 14

Meeting 28:

**Topics:**

Discussion of Assignment 12

**Assignment 13:** Cover your family's holiday in 4-6 photos

Meeting 29:

Meeting 30:

**Topics:**

Discuss Assignment 13

**Topics:** Review for Final Exam

Meeting 31:

**Final Exam**



