

Course Code – Section: PHTG 240-Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Photojournalism (3 credits)
Term & Year: Fall 2014
CRN: 80227

Instructor: Laura J. Bennett
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Office Hours: Holman Arts & Media Center - by appointment
Class Meeting Time: T, TR 4:00 - 6:45
Holman Arts & Media Center - 2014 Lab

Prerequisites: None
Co requisites: None

Course Description:

We'll take a comprehensive look at photojournalism and how it impacts our culture. The course will cover

- The history of photojournalism and its leading photographers
- The legal and ethical aspects of photojournalists
- Techniques, aspects and issues specific to photojournalism and documentary style imagery
- Current events, news and current photojournalists in the field

Students will learn through field assignments, writings, class discussions, videos, photo essays and lectures.

Student Outcomes

Students will learn:

- How to take a “newsworthy” image, and what principles, ethics, legalities surround such an image.
- How to create headlines, cut-lines, photo essays, multimedia presentations and documentary style imagery.
- How to print technically sound and engaging images from your digital camera
- How to create a multimedia presentation through the use of software, such as Photoshop, Picasa, imovie or Windows Movie Maker.
- Foundational understanding of manual and auto camera controls
- How to work both independently and collaboratively to produce photojournalistic assignments, essays and multi media presentations.

In addition:

- Students will be able to discuss formal, technical, creative, legal, ethical and conceptual aspects of their photo essays.
- Students will be able to understand and appreciate the critique process and “see” in a new way as well as learn a new visual language.
- Students will appreciate the history & roots of photojournalism.
- Students will submit images throughout the semester to the *Eagle's Eye*.

Instructional Strategies:

The class will be composed of lectures, discussions, readings from the required text, presentations, videos, digital lab work and class critiques.

Required Text:

Visual Journalism: A Guide for new Media Professionals, by Christopher Harris & Paul Martin Lester

Recommended Text:

Photojournalism, The Professionals' Approach, by Kenneth Kobre (6th Edition)

Witness in Our Time, Working Lives of Documentary Photographers, by Ken Light (2nd Edition)

Magnum: Fifty Years at the Front Line of History: The Story of the Legendary Photo Agency, by Russell Miller

Attendance: 25% of your grade is based on attendance!

- A student is allowed a total of 3 absences for the semester without penalty.
- Please be aware: Absence from a critique or leaving early lowers your grade on that assignment by a full letter.

Assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date it's due.

Plan to complete them a few days before they are due, because you may decide you need to do them over. Visual art projects almost always need more work beyond the first edit, and therefore will most likely take longer than originally planned

Class Requirements:

1. Four (4) assignments (25% of final grade) and one final project (25% of final grade) will be given.
2. Assignments will be graded based on conceptual and technical aspects, as well as effort and time spent.
3. Students are required to hand in a minimum of three (3) photographs w/ a cut-line to the school paper, the *Eagle Eye*
4. Readings will be assigned throughout the term from materials provided by the instructor, your required book, or web-based material. Responses will be in the form of a journal entry or written paper.
5. The final multimedia presentation & critique is **mandatory**. Student will fail the project if they do not attend.
6. All student work is graded on an individual basis at the discretion of the instructor.
7. Students are required to maintain a clean digital lab and keep all food and beverages out of the lab
8. Attendance is required and accounts for 25% of your final grade.
9. Students are required to adhere to the Student Honor Code, specifically in regard to plagiarism. **All work in this course must be created during the current semester.** Any prior images will not be accepted.
10. Students are required to join the class website on LORE, as all assignments and communication regarding the class will be posted there.
11. There will be several quizzes during the semester.

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be based on assignments, quizzes, final presentation, class participation & class attendance. Please note: in order to earn an "A," you must create interesting and **superior work** that is well thought out and executed. You must also be **an active participant** in the class and critiques.

Grade Breakdown:

Assignments = 25% of final grade

Final Presentation = 25% of final grade

Attendance & Participation = 25% of grade

Response Papers & Quizzes = 25% of final grade

Free Software:

If you do not have access to Photoshop, and you want to use a photo-editing program, I recommend **Picasa**, a free photo-editing program from Google, is very helpful if you want to lighten, darken, tone and crop your photos. <http://picasa.google.com/>

- PC users can combine still images and sound with **Windows Movie Maker**. It can be found in the "All Programs" listing or in the "accessories" folder within the programs listing.
- Apple users can try using **iMovie** to assemble still images and sound. It is already installed in Apple computers in the **iLife Suite**.
- **Audacity** is a permanently free sound recording and editing program. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>. It is also an industry newsroom standard.

Prim Library Resources

Using the library's resources effectively (not just Internet resources) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Link to the *Art and Art History Resources* page online at Prim Library: <http://libguides.sierranevada.edu/art>

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, office in Prim Library: PL-304.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Sierra Nevada College Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts	Professional Preparedness
Entrepreneurial	Thinking Sustainability

Class Schedule

Please Note: This schedule is subject to change.

Week 1: Introductions & discussions / Digital Lab / Theories of Visual Literacy / Practice Interview

Week 2: LORE / Practice Interview / **Assignment #1 Handout: The Interview**

Week 3: The Six Ethical Philosophies & Five Ethical Concerns / Code of Ethics / Genres of Documentary / Taking Portraits

Week 4: The 4 Streams / The Documentary: Magnum, FSA & The Photo League

Week 5: **1st Critique / Assignment #2 Handout**

Week 6: Power Point Demo / Presentation related to Assignment 2

Week 7: Headlines, Bi-lines, Layout & Design & Articles: An overview / Magazine Layout

March 12th -15th MIDTERMS

Week 8: **2nd Critique / Assignment #3 Handout & Presentation / Journals Due**

Week 9: March 18th – 22 Spring Break

Week 10: Multimedia presentation overview – software (Music, image, text) / Groups Assigned

Week 11: **3rd Critique** / Group Meetings

Week 12: Individual Meetings / Group Meetings

Week 13: **Group Presentations**

Week 14: Lab time for final presentation / Journals Due

Week 15: Individual Meetings / Presentation

Week 16: Final

Supply List

A digital camera: it doesn't have to be expensive.

An inexpensive digital tape recorder

A large capacity USB Drive

Batteries for your devices

(optional)

USB Card Reader

If you have a digital camera:

- Digital SLR camera with a minimum of 6 - mega pixels with at least 256MB memory card (you must bring in your camera by the second week of school).
- A PDF copy or original manual for your camera
- A large capacity USB or external drive for transferring files
- 1-2 packs of 8.5 x 11 Epson or Ilford Paper for printing digitally
- Storage binder and clear sleeves for your photos

Please Note:

If you have a film camera: You will be shooting a lot, so using film could be costly and time consuming, although I personally love it and am not opposed to it by any means. Everything in the journalism industry is done digitally, so I recommend you get familiar with that standard.

- A 35mm or medium format film SLR camera with operator manual (should be serviced and new battery)
- A PDF copy or original manual for your camera
- One box Ilford Multigrade 8 x 10 Photo Paper/ 25 sheets (RC or FB)
- Minimum of 8 rolls of Ilford Delta film 100 or 400 speed (asa), or Kodak TMAX 100 or 400 speed (asa) (if shooting sporting events, a faster asa may be needed.)
- Negative Storage Sleeves/ 8 x 10 – 25 pack
- Storage binder and clear sleeves for your photos