

**Course Code – Section:** PHTG 240-Section 1  
**Course Title (Credits):** Photojournalism (3 credits)  
**Term & Year:** Spring 2015  
**CRN:** 10151

**Instructor:** Laura J. Bennett  
**Phone:** 281-222- 4823 cell (emergencies only)  
**Email:** [lbennett@sierranevada.edu](mailto:lbennett@sierranevada.edu)  
**Office Hours:** HAMC RM 202 by appointment  
**Class Meeting Time:** M, W 4:00 - 6:45  
**Holman Arts & Media Center - RM 208**

**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
- 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.

**Instructional Strategies:**

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

**Recommended Text (will be used as a resource for class):**

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

**Recommended Reading:**

*Photojournalism, The Professionals' Approach*, by Kenneth Kobre (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)

*Witness in Our Time, Working Lives of Documentary Photographers*, by Ken Light (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 edit or revise them.

**Class Requirements:**

1. Three (3) assignments (30% of final grade) and one final project (15% 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 photograph (i.e. cover) one local event and present to the class
4. Readings will be assigned throughout the term from materials provided by the instructor, your required book, or web-based materials. Responses will be in the form of a written **hard copy**. **Homework may not be submitted through email!**
5. The final 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.

**Grading Policy:** Your final grade will be based on assignments, 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 (3 at 10%) = 30% of final grade

Final Presentation = 15% of final grade

Attendance & Participation= 25% of final grade

Response Papers, In Class Assignments & Event Coverage =30% of final grade

**Required Materials:**

1. A portable USB Drive (at least 4GB capacity or greater)
2. 1-2 Packs of Epson Ultra Premium Paper for printing digitally (8.5 x 11) Glossy, Semi-Gloss, Pearl
3. A functioning digital camera. It doesn't need to be expensive (Canon Power Shot is fine)

## **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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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

## **Supply List**

A digital camera with a minimum of 6 - mega pixels with at least 256MB memory card (you must have a camera by the second week of school). This doesn't have to be a fancy camera. A point and shoot Canon Power Shot or Samsung Smart will suffice.

A large capacity USB Drive for transferring work to my laptop for presentations

Batteries and SD Cards for your devices

1-2 packs of epson ultra premium glossy or semi-gloss paper

One manilla envelope for handing in photos

(optional)

--USB Card Reader

--An inexpensive digital tape recorder for interviews and transcribing conversations

### **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.**