

**Photojournalism – Communication 3225**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 am – 9:20 am**  
**Room 281 Journalism Building**

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am  
or by appointment.

**Course description**

This course is designed to broaden students' understanding of photojournalism and to provide the basic skills needed to produce newsworthy images for publication in print and on the Web.

Anybody can take a picture but not everyone can capture a moment in time that will stay ingrained in our minds. Photographs such as Dorothea Lange, 1936 "Migrant Mother" during the Great Depression, Joe Rosenthal, 1945 "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" or the hundreds of images from the 9/11 attack on the United States demonstrate the power of photojournalism and its importance to our society. Newspapers are shrinking but online news sources are increasing and so is their need for journalists who can produce newsworthy photographs to go along with their stories. In the Digital Age, aspiring journalists must have these photo and multimedia skills to be competitive in the job market.

The course starts with an overview of the role of photojournalism's role in society. We will discuss the responsibility of visual journalists as well as some of the ethical dilemmas in the Digital Age. Subsequently, students will learn the basic technical aspects of photography such as controlling a camera's aperture and shutter speed before going out on assignments. In addition, a photojournalist's work is not over after capturing a photograph; writing informative captions, photo editing and post-production skills are essential responsibilities of all photojournalists. Students can expect to learn Photoshop and other computer software to complete those tasks.

The students will have the opportunity to practice the principles of photojournalism by photographing multiple news assignments such as features, general news, and sports. The classroom will imitate a photo department in which I will serve as your photo editor. We will have collective critiques after each photo assignment to provide feedback and to increase photo-editing skills. Furthermore, we will dedicate ample time to develop students' journalistic storytelling skills. Students will also produce a web portfolio to highlight their class work. The goal of this portfolio is to expand the students' knowledge of online tools and social networks to distribute news content and build a professional web presence. Acknowledging the constantly changing world of journalism and the

industry's demand for multimedia content, students will learn the basics of audio recording used by photojournalists. Finally, students will have the freedom to explore a topic/issue in depth and demonstrate what they learned in a larger multimedia photo story project.

### **Goals**

- Understand the history and role of photojournalism in society and its transformation into the digital world.
- Understand the ethics and responsibilities of photojournalists.
- Learn how to manually control a digital SLR camera.
- Learn how to shoot various news photo assignments and photo stories.
- Learn digital photography workflow and post-production.
- Produce photo galleries for on-line publication and distribution.
- Develop a professional personal on-line photo portfolio.

### **Publish your work in The Lantern and earn 5 bonus points**

The primary goal of this class is to develop photographic skills so that students can create newsworthy images good enough to publish – that is, posted on a news-oriented Web site such as The Lantern. Students are especially encouraged to produce pick up Lantern photo assignments.

To qualify for the bonus points, the photo(s) must be created during the class and appear on the Lantern site during the semester. Students are required to make all contacts with photo editors at the Lantern for their material to be added to the Lantern's news site. Students must follow the Lantern's deadlines. Students are responsible for informing the instructor promptly when their material is posted on the Lantern site.

### **Course reading**

- Kenneth Krobe, 2008. Photojournalism: The Professionals' Approach, Sixth Edition.

In addition, students will have selected reading from on-line sources. These readings will correlate with the technical components of the class as well as current topics regarding photojournalism.

### **Equipment:**

- Digital SLR camera\* or a digital camera with manual capability. We have some cameras available to you for check out.
- Classroom Services in Enarson Hall has digital cameras that you can checkout for class assignments. I'll provide you with a signed checkout form. You'll only need one for the entire semester.

- External portable hard-drive Mac compatible.

*\*Some students might already own a digital camera that can be use in this class. You must show your camera to your instructor to make sure it has the necessary functions to complete class assignments.*

**Each project will be assigned a numerical grade. Percentages will be applied as follows:**

- 50% First seven photo assignments
- 5% Homework
- 5% Attendance and participation
- 5% Portfolio
- 10% Final exam
- 10% Assignment #8 - First photo story
- 15% Assignment #9 - Second photo story with multimedia

**Breakdown of first seven photo assignments**

Assignment #1, 2 parts Exposure control
1. Aperture
2. Shutter speed
3. ISO
Assignment #2 Photographic composition
Assignment #3 Photographing people
Assignment #4 General News
Assignment #5 Feature
Assignment #6 Portraits
Assignment #7 Sports

**Reshoots**

Students can re-shoot assignments #1 to #2 one for a better grade. Reshoots can only go up one letter grade. For example, you get go from B to A and from a C to B, but you can't go from a C to an A.

**Homework**

- Chapter readings from the book, online readings and watching videos.
- Bringing materials to participate in class discussions
- Photographer of the day
- Complete photo skills exercises
- Submitting material to Carmen as stated on the class calendar

**Attendance policy**

It is essential that you come to class each day and participate in our discussions. The

professor will track attendance throughout the semester and students will earn points for attending class and participating in discussion. Students who are unable to attend class must notify the professor in advance or soon after the class period and provide written documentation of the reason for missing class (e.g., medical note from a certified physician) in order to receive an excused absence. All other absences will be regarded as unexcused. Students are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty.

### **Final (the last day of classes)**

The final will cover everything that has occurred in class from lectures, discussions, camera skills, assignments, and Photoshop skills. The format will include multiple-choice, fill in the blank, true/false questions and short answers.

### **Grading assignments includes the following criteria:**

- Follow directions on the assignment.
- Finished product must apply the principles covered in readings and class.
- Meeting deadlines is crucial in photojournalism. Assignments submitted after deadlines will be penalized for each day that they are late. Students are not allowed to reshoot late assignments.
- Assignments should be good enough to be published. Unprofessional or sloppy work will be penalized.

### **Grade distribution: OSU Standard Scheme**

A = 94-100  
A- = 90-93  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 83-86  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  
C- = 70-72  
D = 60-69  
E = 59 or below

### **Technology Use**

This course is a technology-heavy course, but it must be used responsibly – that is, you need to stay focused on class discussion and material as a courtesy to other students and your instructor, and to do well in the class. So, **DO NOT CHECK YOUR EMAIL** or use the Internet for tasks outside of class assignments while I am lecturing or while other students are speaking.

\* Poor cell phone etiquette is frowned upon. Please put all phones on silent, and do not answer them or text in class in class.

## Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

## Statement about Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

## Calendar

I will make every attempt to adhere strictly to these dates. However, based on circumstances, class progress or other some of these dates are subject to change.

	<b>Discussion topics and homework</b>	<b>Assignments due</b>
<b>Week 1- Intro to course</b>		
8/28	Intro to class; an overview of materials (readings, equipment, etc.) Online tools and resources. <i>HW- Review syllabus</i> <i>HW- Reading Chap 17 –History</i> <i>HW Take pictures</i>	
<b>Week 2- Photojournalism- then and now</b>		
9/2	History of photojournalism. Iconic images <i>HW-Provide 3 examples of photos that made history for the following class and write a brief summary.</i> <i>HW Selected online reading</i>	<b>Photographer of the day</b>
9/4	Photojournalism and society. Class discussion. <i>HW- Reading Chap 8- Camera bag</i> <i>HW *The digital camera- selected reading</i>	<b>Present 3 Photos that made history with summary.</b>
<b>Week 3 The DSLR camera - Exposure</b>		
9/9	Camera parts, lenses and functions. Aperture, shutter	

	<p>speed and ISO</p> <p><i>*Assignment #1 part 1: Exposure: exercise (Aperture and depth of field)</i></p> <p><i>HW Selected online reading.</i></p>	
9/11	<p>Basic principals of photography continue.</p> <p>In class activity - Aperture, shutter speed and ISO</p> <p><i>*Assignment #1 part 2: Exposure: exercise- (Shutter speed and ISO).</i></p>	
<b>Week 4- Photo composition – the “Creative Devices”</b>		
9/16	<p>Show your work. Class discussion &amp; critique.</p> <p>Intro to composition.</p> <p><i>HW Research photographic composition and bring examples to the next class from newspapers.</i></p>	<b>*Assignment # 1 Exposure, shutter speed and ISO</b>
9/18	<p>Discussion on composition and the “Creative Devices” lecture.</p> <p><i>*Assignment #2: Creative devices</i></p> <p><i>HW Reading-Special Section Digital Darkroom</i></p> <p><i>HW Selected reading online: Photoshop</i></p>	
<b>Week 5- Digital workflow and Photoshop</b>		
9/23	<p>Show your work. Class discussion &amp; critique.</p> <p>Intro. Photoshop &amp; Bridge, toning, curves, levels, color correction.</p>	<b>*Assignment #2 Creative devices.</b>
9/25	<p>In class exercises: Photoshop <i>toning photographs:</i></p> <p><i>*Assignment #3: Photographing people</i></p> <p><i>HW Reading Chap 7- Photo editing</i></p> <p><i>HW Selected online reading: editing</i></p>	
<b>Week 6 Photo editing and captions</b>		
9/30	<p>Photo editing – Selecting the best images to tell a story</p> <p>In class editing exercise</p> <p><i>HW. Bring newspaper photos for next class to critique</i></p> <p><i>HW Selected reading AP captions</i></p>	<b>*Assignment #3 Photographing people</b>
10/2	<p>Newspaper photo critique</p> <p>Captions, captions, captions!</p> <p>In class - exercise</p> <p><i>HW Reading Chap 1- Assignment.</i></p> <p><i>HW Reading Chap 3- General News</i></p> <p><i>*Photo challenge.</i></p>	<b>Newspaper critique I</b>
<b>Week 7 Photojournalists on assignment</b>		
10/7	<p>News assignments &amp; General news lecture. Critique</p> <p><i>HW Reading Chap 2- Spot News</i></p> <p><i>HW. Bring photos of spot/general news from newspaper.</i></p>	<b>Photo challenge</b>
10/9	<p>Spot news lecture. Discussion</p> <p><i>HW Reading Chap 4- Feature</i></p> <p><i>HW. Search community calendar for General News event</i></p> <p><i>*Assignment #4 General News/Event</i></p>	<b>Newspaper critique II</b>
<b>Week 8 On assignment – Features and Portrait</b>		

10/14	Feature lecture. Critique <i>HW Bring to class 2 examples of portraits</i> <i>HW Selected reading online</i> <i>HW Reading Chap 5- Portraits</i> <i>*Assignment #5 Feature</i>	<b>*Assignment #4 General News</b>
10/16	Portraits and lighting. Show examples <i>HW Reading Chap 6- Sports</i> <i>HW. Bring to class 2 sports photos</i> <i>*Assignment #6 Portraits</i>	<b>*Assignment #5 Feature</b>
<b>Week 9 On assignment – Sports</b>		
10/21	Sports photo lecture and discussion. <i>*Assignment #7 Sports</i> <i>HW Selected reading SportShooter.com</i>	<b>Portraits</b>
10/23	Photo critique More on Sports *** Speaker TBA *** <i>HW. Selected readings online NPPA code of Ethics and Law article</i>	<b>*Assignment #6 Portraits</b>
<b>Week 10 Law &amp; Ethics in photojournalism and Photo story.</b>		
10/28	Law and Ethics in photojournalism- In class exercise <i>HW Reading Chap 11- Photo story</i> <i>HW Selected readings online</i>	
10/30	Ethics continue. Critique sports <i>HW. Research photographers</i> <i>HW. Bring to class examples of photo stories</i>	<b>*Assignment #7 Sports</b>
<b>Week 11 On assignment – Covering the issues/photo story/documentary</b>		
11/4	Covering the Issues lecture. Photo stories. Documentary photography. Class discussion. Examples <i>*Assignment #8 First photo story</i>	
11/6	Photos stories continue. In class exercise - <i>HW Selected reading – Intro to audio</i>	<b>Examples of photo stories</b>
<b>Week 12 Multimedia audio</b>		
11/11	<b>NO CLASS – VETERAN’S DAY</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
11/13	Intro to audio for photojournalists. Basic of audio techniques, audio equipment. Collecting ambient sound <i>*Assignment #9 Second photo story with multimedia</i> <i>HW Final photo story proposal</i>	
<b>Week 13 Multimedia – Adobe Final Cut X</b>		
11/18	Intro to Adobe Final Cut X. Interface Adding images to Final Cut X	<b>1<sup>st</sup> photo story</b>
11/20	Working with audio in Final Cut X <i>HW. Research Photo-J portfolio</i>	<b>Final story proposal</b>
<b>Week 14 Portfolio / blog</b>		
11/25	Portfolio discussion – Wordpress In-class activity: blog, images, categories, tags	

	<i>HW. Prepare to show an update on your photo story.</i>	
11/27	<b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 15 Working with your final project</b>		
12/2	Update on final photo story. Class presentation and editing session	<b>Present update on your photo story</b>
12/4	Update on final photo story. Class presentation and editing session	
<b>Week 16 Final Project - Putting it all together</b>		
12/9	Final In-class Exam	<b>Portfolio/blog</b>
<b>FINAL PROJECT DUE:</b> <b>Assignment #9 Second photo story with multimedia</b> <b>Monday December 15 from 8:00 am - 9:45 am</b> Please double check with Autumn 2014 Final Examination Schedule		