

**Photojournalism – Communication 3225**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:35 am – 10:55 am**  
**Room 281 Journalism Building**

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**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Wednesdays & Fridays from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

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 Kobre, 2008. Photojournalism: The Professionals' Approach, Sixth Edition.  
ISBN-13: 9780750685931  
ISBN: 075068593X  
Publisher: Focal Press

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.
- 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 6 photo assignments
- 5% Homework
- 5% Attendance and participation
- 15% Final exam
- 10% Assignment #7 - First photo story (digital and prints)
- 15% Assignment #8 - Second photo story with multimedia

**Breakdown of first six (6) 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

**\*An assignment description will be provided prior to every assignment. All assignments need to be completed and submitted according to the guides. Review calendar for datelines.**

**Reshoot**

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 Exam**

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.
- Photos must be taking during class term ONLY and ONLY for this class. No others will be accepted **and zero will be given for that assignment.**
- Finished product must apply the principles covered in readings and class.
- **Meeting deadlines is crucial in photojournalism. Assignments submitted after deadlines will not be graded and zero will be given for that assignment.**  
Students are not allowed to reshoot assignments not submitted the first time around.
- Assignments should be good enough to be published. Unprofessional or sloppy work will be penalized.
- Photos MUST have captions, sources MUST be identified in audio and video projects.

### **Late work**

Meeting deadlines is crucial in photojournalism. Assignments submitted after deadlines will not be graded and zero will be given for that assignment.

Students are not allowed to reshoot assignments not submitted the first time around.

### **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.

## **Diversity**

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

## **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 and homework due</b>
<b>Week 1- Intro to course and history</b>		
8/23	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 Bring your photos to class</i> <i>HW Photographer of the day and take pictures</i>	
8/25	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>Week 2- Photojournalism and camera</b>		
8/30	Photo J history cont. 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>
9/1	Camera parts, lenses and functions. Aperture, shutter speed and ISO <i>*Assignment #1 part 1: Exposure: exercise (Aperture and depth of field)</i> <i>HW Selected online reading</i>	
<b>Week 3 Exposure and composition</b>		
9/6	Basic principals of photography continue. In class activity - Aperture, shutter speed and ISO <i>*Assignment #1 part 2: Exposure: exercise- (Shutter speed and ISO).</i>	
9/8	Intro to composition. <i>HW Research photographic composition and bring examples to the next class from newspapers.</i>	<b>*Assignment # 1 Exposure, shutter speed and ISO</b>
<b>Week 4- Photo composition</b>		
9/13	Lecturer and discussion on composition <i>*Assignment #2: Composition - Creative devices</i> <i>HW Reading-Special Section Digital Darkroom</i> <i>HW Selected reading online: Photoshop</i>	
9/13	Show your work. Class discussion & critique. <i>*Assignment #3: Photographing people</i> <i>HW Reading Chap 7- Photo editing</i>	<b>*Assignment #2 Photo composition</b>
<b>Week 5- Photoshop, captions and editing</b>		
9/20	Intro. Photoshop & Bridge, toning, curves, levels, color correction. In class exercises: Photoshop <i>toning photographs</i> <i>HW Selected online reading: editing</i>	<b>*Assignment #3 Photographing people</b>

	<i>HW. Bring newspaper photos for next class to critique</i>	
9/22	Photo Editing - Selecting the best images to tell a story In class editing exercise <i>HW Selected reading AP captions</i> <i>HW Reading Chap 1- Assignment.</i> <i>HW Reading Chap 3- General News</i> <i>HW PHOTO CHALLENGE</i>	<b>Photo critique</b>
<b>Week 6 Photojournalists on assignment General new and Feature</b>		
9/27	News assignments & General news lecture. <i>HW Reading Chap 2- Spot News</i> <i>*Assignment #4 General News/Event</i>	
9/29	Feature lecture. Spot news lecture. Discussion <i>*Assignment #5 Feature</i> <i>HW. Search community calendar for General News event</i> <i>HW Reading Chap 5- Portraits</i>	<b>Photo Challenge</b>
<b>Week 7 On assignment – Portraits and sports</b>		
10/4	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 #4 General News</b>
10/6	Sports photo lecture and discussion. <i>HW Selected reading SportShooter.com</i> More on Sports *** Speaker TBA *** <i>HW. Selected readings online NPPA code of Ethics and Law article</i>	<b>*Assignment #5 Feature</b>
<b>Week 8 Law &amp; Ethics in photojournalism</b>		
10/11	Law and Ethics in photojournalism- <i>HW Reading Chap 11- Photo story</i> <i>HW Selected readings online</i> <i>HW Scavenger Hunt</i>	<b>*Assignment #6 Portraits</b>
10/13	NO CLASS – AUTUM BREAK	
<b>Week 9 On assignment – Covering the issues/photo story/documentary</b>		
10/18	Photo stories. Covering the Issues lecture <i>HW. Research photographers</i> <i>HW. Bring to class examples of photo stories</i> <i>*Assignment #7 First photo story</i>	<b>Scavenger hunt</b>
10/20	Documentary photography. Class discussion. Examples Finding subject and stories	<b>Examples of photo stories</b>
<b>Week 10</b>		
10/25	Photos stories continue. In class exercise – review of topics	
10/27	<i>Editing and production of 1<sup>st</sup> story.</i>	

<b>Week 11 First story critique and multimedia audio</b>		
11/1	<i>Photo story show and critique. Bring your prints!</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> photo story – Assignment #7</b>
11/3	Intro to audio for photojournalists. Basic of audio techniques, audio equipment. Collecting ambient sound <i>*Assignment #8 Second photo story with multimedia</i> <i>HW Final photo story proposal</i>	
<b>Week 12 Adobe Final Cut X and final story</b>		
11/8	Audio and Intro to Adobe Final Cut X. Interface <i>Finals story discussion</i>	<b>Final story proposal</b>
11/10	Working with audio in Final Cut X	
<b>Week 13 Portfolio / blog</b>		
11/15	Portfolio discussion – Wordpress <i>HW. Research Photo-J portfolio</i>	
11/17	In-class activity: blog, images, categories, tags <i>HW. Prepare to show an update on your photo story</i>	
<b>Week 14</b>		
11/22	Update on final photo story. Class presentation and editing session	<b>Present update on your photo story</b>
11/24	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 15 Presentations</b>		
11/29	Final Presentations	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Photo story multimedia - Assignment #8</b>
12/1	Final Presentations	
<b>Week 16 Final review</b>		
12/6	Final review for exam	
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		
<b>Friday, December 9 from 8:00 am - 9:45 am</b>		
Please double check with Autumn 2016 Final Examination Schedule		