

BEGINNING PHOTOJOURNALISM

180.1

Spring 2014 T/TH 2:00 - 3:15 CA 60

PROFESSOR: ROSS TAYLOR
OFFICE: CA 60
MOBILE: 757-412-8558
ross@rosstaylor.net
<http://rosstaylor.net>

Course Objectives

1. To help you learn how to effectively use your 35mm cameras.
2. To help you understand what makes a good photograph in terms of (1) content; (2) composition/aesthetics; (3) technical quality.
3. To help you acquire and develop the intellectual, technical and analytical skills of visual communication.
4. To help you understand the all-important contribution of the idea to the photograph — the critical element that separates the picture maker from the picture taker.

Major topics we will cover...

- ♦ Camera mechanics
- ♦ Equivalent Exposure
- ♦ Idea generation
- ♦ Caption Writing
- ♦ Depth of field
- ♦ Light
- ♦ Composition/Design
- ♦ Portraits
- ♦ Picture Stories
- ♦ Story research and proposal
- ♦ Action/Motion
- ♦ Ethics, Laws
- ♦ Building a beginning portfolio
- ♦ Photojournalism History

In addition to these subjects, guest speakers may visit to talk about their work in the communications photography field. Some flexibility in the schedule has been worked in to accommodate speakers and other events that may arise.

The key to success in this class is consistency. Keep working and working hard. Push the boundaries. And keep up with all assignments. This is a labor-intensive course. Learn through action.

Photography Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. You must be present to receive a grade. Any assignments turned in after that will receive a grade of 0. This will be strictly enforced with no exceptions. You will have the opportunity to reshoot 2 of your assignments.

♦ OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday - 12:00-2:00

♦ Please contact me for a specific appointment time. I am happy to do it.

♦ Recommended Texts:
[National Geographic Photography Field Guide: Secrets to Making Great Pictures](#)

[Photojournalism: A Professional's Approach](#) by Ken Kobre

♦ This syllabus is flexible. Be prepared for change.

♦ ATTENDANCE is vital to the success of this class. There will be demonstrations that cannot be redone. BE ON TIME.

♦ Your final grade will be determined out of a 1000 point scale:

Assignments = 450
Final Project = 450
Participation/On Time Arrival = 100

♦ Cell Phones: Please turn off your cell phones for class. BE RESPECTFUL.

Weekly photography assignments receive the a lot of weight toward your final grade. Take them seriously. One zero on these assignments could be disastrous. If you must miss a class (for legitimate excuses cleared by me first) you must turn in your assignment the day it is due to receive a grade.

Each assignment will be discussed in class and critiqued (See Critiques below). When appropriate, a handout will be provided outlining the requirements for the assignment. And, when feasible, practical demonstrations will be performed to guide you along the way.

Important – no photographs taken before the semester begins will be accepted. You cannot begin shooting an assignment until I give out the assignment sheet in class. Also, this is a documentary photography class. That means - except for still lifes and portraits - you may not “set up” pictures. No “posing” subjects unless it’s, of course, a portrait.

” HONOR CODE –Students will operate within the requirements of the honor code. All work must be your own, must be done specifically for this class, and should be done with the high level of honesty and integrity that this University demands.

Required Equipment and Materials

- 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) digital camera that allows you to manually set the f/stops and shutter speeds
- A lens (a 50 mm is a good and relatively cheap general lens, but others are possible)
- The school has some equipment available for checkout (a Canon Rebel kit). Other equipment is available, if available. Checkout will be done by Matt Bachman (office on the second floor): hours are posted.
- Portable Harddrive to archive your photography
- Camera Flash Card, at least 4 GB (these are not available from Checkout)

NOTE: It is required that you have your own DSLR camera body and basic lens by the time you take the J480 and above courses.

Attendance Policy

Here’s the deal folks, the field of journalism is going to require more of your mind, body and spirit than you can even fathom at this point. The rewards are great, but the demands are high. It is critical that you attend every class. You CANNOT miss a class in order to shoot an assignment. You must be in class to present your work for critique. Turning in an assignment on the server does not count as a turn-in. Part of your completion of the assignment is the critique. You will be allowed 2 un-excused absences; after that 2 percentage points will be deducted from your FINAL GRADE. If your semester average is 91% and you miss 3 classes, your final average would be 89%. Etcetera. Use your 2 wisely (save them for any unfortunate illnesses, not to watch House of Cards). The only exception to this will be a serious medical condition.

PhotoNight

PhotoNight is a monthly speaker series that is occasionally held on the last Tuesday of every month. Presentations are from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Attendance at PhotoNight is considered part of the class and is mandatory and will be recorded. Attendance will count according to the guidelines above.

Critiques

Our goal: to discover what makes a good picture, to uncover the highs and lows, the good and bad, to prepare you to go out and make images that communicate the next time. Critiques are essential to growth. I want involvement from everyone and the critiques need to be constructive. You can be tough without tearing each other apart. Find the balance, and, when in doubt take the higher road. When receiving a critique of your work, you need to maintain a similar balance. There is fine line between defending your position and making excuses. Don’t be so connected to your work that you lose

sight of how it could be better. Critiques are like weightlifting. The act of lifting weights actually tears muscles and breaks them down. It hurts and it’s not all that fun. But when the muscles heal they are stronger.

Exercises and Assignments

You will complete in class shooting exercises, six shooting assignments, a written picture story proposal, and your final project... The Picture Story. Each assignment will have written captions and should be from work created this semester, nothing taken before this year will be accepted. Here’s the grading breakdown:

Exercises		50 - Total
01 Vision and Iconic Photographers	In Class	25
02 Depth of Field, Motion and Flash	In Class	25
(quiz included in this)		
Assignments		450 - Total
Portfolio 1		
03 The World Around You	In Field	75
04 Composition	In Field	75
05 Light/Portrait	In Field	75
06 Moment	In Field	75
Portfolio 2		
07 Feature	In Field	75
08 Sports Package	In Field	75
Final Project		450 - Total
09 Story Ideas		25
09 Story Edit		25
09 Final Picture Story		400
Participation and On-Time Arrival		50
Total		1000

Grade Determination

I will do my best to be fair and accurate, but to do this there must be some very specific guidelines and boundaries. Here they are:

- 1) Assignments are due at the minute class begins (and on the server by the designated time) on the due date!
- 2) Any assignment not turned in will receive zero points.
- 3) Class participation is critical to success in this course.

Although this is a subjective world (how do you define quality?), there still must be a final say, and that is where I come in. I am the editor. Your work will be evaluated on image quality, technical skills, content, ethics and aesthetics. Remember this is a journalism course, and the key is communication. We will define all of this during class. The grading will be stringent but geared to match your progression through the semester.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes in this class covering information discussed in class and from your text. These quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. I will not always announce the quizzes, so you need to be prepared yourself for each class by going over the class/lab materials and readings from the previous weeks. Knowing and understanding this material will better prepare you to make better pictures.

How do you succeed in this class?

- Be on time ... be prepared to learn, participate and contribute
- Listen and respect what I and your fellow students say
- Manage your resources - your money and your time. It is not easy but not impossible
- Be honest. Admit your errors. No excuses
- Be positive
- Bury your pride. Now is the time to learn, and most learning occurs in difficult times. Do not fear failure
- Help each other

What can you expect from me?

- Honesty – I will be honest and direct
- I will be available during office hours and flexible for other appointments
- I want you to succeed
- As you might observe from the above syllabus, this class requires much work. But that's OK; hard work can actually be enjoyable if you have a tangible goal in mind and you have fun doing it. If you apply yourself, you will soon be able to see - see like you've never seen before. You will be telling stories with photographs and taking a valuable skill into your future. I am looking forward to working with you this semester!

ACEJMC CORE VALUES AND COMPETENCIES

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be able to:

Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;

Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;

Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;

Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;

Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;

Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;

Think critically, creatively and independently;

Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;

Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;

Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;

Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

Contribute to knowledge appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.

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SEMESTER SCHEDULE ←

Class	Topics
01/08 TH	Review syllabus, intros and resources (note: Lightroom handout on server)
01/13 T	DUE: Visions and discussion
01/15 TH	The Camera/Exposure Assignment Iconic Photographer
01/20 T	Iconic Photographer - First Assignment Issued
01/22 TH	Digital Workflow - Exposure/Depth of Field/Flash/Motion
01/27 T	DUE: The World Around You
01/29 TH	Composition
02/03 T	Quiz: Camera, Exposure, Depth of Field, Readings/Guest Speaker
02/05 TH	DUE: Composition/Critique
02/10 T	Light
02/12 TH	The Portrait
02/17 T	DUE: Light and Portrait/Critique
02/19 TH	The Moment/Ethics
02/24 T	Intro to the Picture Story
02/26 TH	DUE: The Moment/Critique
03/03 T	DUE: Picture Story Ideas
03/05 TH	
03/17 T	TBD (Malawi trip)
03/19 TH	MIDTERM QUIZ / The Feature Picture
03/24 T	DUE: Portfolio 1 and the Picture Story Proposal
03/26 TH	More on Photo Story
03/31 T	DUE: The Feature Picture / Motion, Blur, Panning
04/02 TH	Sports Package
04/07 T	The Picture Story continued
04/09 TH	DUE: Sports Package/Critique
04/14 T	DUE: 10 Images from your Story
04/16 TH	Flash
04/21 T	RESHOOTS DUE / DUE: Picture Story Edit 1
04/23 Th	FINAL CLASS - Final Project show
EXAM TBD	FINAL PROJECTS DUE