Fall 9-1-2019

JRNL 257.50: Beginning Visual Journalism

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JRNL 257 • Beginning Visual Journalism

Section 50
Fall 2019

Instructor
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Office hours: by appointment

Course Objectives
This course will introduce you to the theory of visual storytelling and the tools to produce quality still photo and video narratives. You will learn how to handle your camera and create a workflow in the digital darkroom. You will learn to shoot video, record audio and edit both still and video images. The course will also focus on the ethical issues of visual journalism.

Learning Outcomes
Successful JRNL 257 students will demonstrate an understanding of:

- Visual literacy skills
- Critical and creative thinking
- The use of appropriate tools and technology
- An introduction to journalism ethics including the importance of truth, accuracy and fairness

Learning Goals
- To develop the technical and intellectual skills to express stories through photography.
- To understand what photojournalism is and how to excel in the field.
- To understand diversity issues and building diverse voices in the newsroom
- To know what makes a good photograph based on composition, lighting, content and technical quality
- To build visual storytelling abilities with both still images and video
- To write accurate and efficient photo captions
- To produce publishable images
- To shoot and record steady, well-framed, properly exposed video
- To record clear, understandable audio
- To edit video, audio, natural sound and voice narration and digital still images in
- To edit video using sequences to compress time
- To export video and understand the video software program’s file structure.

Graded Assignments

1. Moodle Tutorial
2. Your camera
3. Depth of Field
4. Composition
5. Quality of Light
6. Caption writing
7. Interaction
8. Landscape or Cityscape
9. Portraits
10. Ethics report
11. Video sequence
12. Video interview
13. Video package (rough draft)
14. Video package (final version)

**Attendance and Participation**
You are expected to complete all assignments by the due date.

**Moodle**
I will use Moodle for this course. Your grades will be available there, along with some handouts and resources. There are video tutorials you will need to watch on Moodle.

**Deadlines and Professionalism**
Professionals are under constant pressure to produce high-quality work in a short time. A great story is of little value if it's finished too late for publication or broadcast. Therefore, deadlines in this class will be strictly enforced. Unless you have an acceptable reason and make prior arrangements, an assignment submitted after the deadline will be assigned a grade of zero.

If you can’t meet a deadline due to illness or some other emergency, you must let me know before the deadline. You have two weeks after a grade has been posted to contest it. After that time, the grade will stand as posted.

**Camera Equipment**
You will need your own camera for this class. Please read details on Moodle. It will also be necessary for you to have a computer and sufficient hard drive space to store your work. You are responsible for having a back-up of each assignment as well. We recommend a portable hard drive of at least 500 MB.

**Academic Honesty**
I expect your honesty in presenting your own work for this course. Academic misconduct at The University of Montana is subject to an academic penalty ranging from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university. Students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code found at the [Conduct Code and Policies website](#).
Plagiarism
As defined by “The University of Montana Student Conduct Code” plagiarism is: “Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own.” This is strictly prohibited in this class and any case of plagiarism in this course will be subject to the penalties outlined in the student code of conduct.

Double-dipping
You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously, or will be concurrently, submitted for another class, unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an F for the assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website.