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JRNL 2270.03: Beginning Photojournalism

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Beginning Photojournalism U227

Section 1, Fall, 2013 T/TH 12:40 -2:00 DAH 306



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“I have been a witness, and these pictures are my testimony.”

James Nachtwey

ABOUT THE COURSE:

J225 introduces you to the skills, theory, and ethics of photojournalism. You will learn how to:

- Handle and shoot a digital SLR camera
- Download, edit, caption and store digital images
- Learn what a photo story is, and how to generate ideas, and approach subjects and situations within a story
- Learn how to look at light in a different way
- Produce images and stories from a variety of areas within photojournalism, such as sports, news, portraits, and feature photography
- Produce and follow through on assignments on time and in a professional manner

Photojournalism is, at it's best, a powerful, change-affecting way of telling a story. Photojournalists record and document life as it happens in many different situations, sometimes under extreme duress or impossible conditions, and share these intimate moments with the hope of shedding light on stories and ideas that need to be told. The job of the photojournalist is to photograph the world around them, the good, bad, evil, wonderful world, and to tell those stories in an honest, visual way. Photojournalism shows the world as it is, through the photographer's eyes, with skill, experience, and a deep desire to find the truth.

In this course, you will be expected to learn how to photograph people you don't know, in situations that might not be familiar to you, and to tell your stories to the best of your abilities. Today's Photojournalist needs to wear many hats, learn to think fast on their feet, and be adept in the latest technology.

All work will be done with digital cameras and computers; it is a completely digital course. You will need a professional digital camera (DSLR) that has manual override capabilities, of which we have several that you may check out as needed here at the university. We will be shooting exclusively on manual settings, learning as we go forward.

Assignments

Your photographic assignments receive the most weight toward your final grades. Assignments will be discussed in class. You will be required to complete seven single photo assignments as well as a final photo project. You must wait until we discuss each assignment before starting that assignment. **You must shoot a different subject for each assignment. You may not select photos from a prior assignment for a current assignment. The same is true of resubmissions.** You will have a mid-term based on readings, lectures,

slideshows, and current events. Unannounced quizzes and additional reports may also be required.

Course Outcomes

- To develop the technical and intellectual skills needed to express yourself through photography
- To understand what photojournalism is and why it is important.
- To know what makes a good journalism photograph is based on composition, lighting, composition, technique, and how it tells a story.
- To build your visual storytelling ability.
- To write accurate and efficient captions.
- To produce publishable images that help build your portfolio.
- To understand the basics of journalism ethics and the importance of truth, accuracy, and fairness.
- To achieve an understanding of the challenges and expectations facing new photojournalists in the real world.

Methods

Although I will lecture on photography and photojournalism, we will spend most of our time in class looking at pictures and talking about what makes a good photograph. We will discover the art of seeing and the power of the still image.

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability that you feel affects your performance in this class, please see me, and we'll make reasonable accommodations. Please see www.umt.edu/dss for details.

Textbooks

There are no required texts for this class. There are, however, suggested books and ongoing websites which are listed here. We will also discuss current issues and news related subject matter as it unfolds during the course.

Ken Kobre's **Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach 6th ed.** Boston, which is on reserve at the library **Focal Press 2008**

Harold Evans's Pictures on a Page Pimlico Press

Websites

Time Lightbox lightbox.time.com

NY Times	lens.blogs.nytimes.com
Reuters	reuters.com/news/pictures
Daily Beast	thedailybeast.com/galleries
Bagnotes	bagnotes.com
The Big Picture	boston.com/bigpicture/
The Frame	blogs.sacbee.com/photos/
LA Times	latimes.com/news/local/photography

Labs and equipment checkout

A mandatory lab will meet weeks 3 and 4 with graduate student Stephanie Parker. You will receive a lab grade, which will be part of your final class grade. If time allows, Mrs. Parker will offer help in editing assignments and help with final projects. Lab is worth 25 points. Please sign up with Mrs. Parker during your first week of classes. I will be handing out your sign up sheet with your syllabus.

Mrs. Parker will cover all technical aspects and training in:

Downloading files
 Camera mechanics
 Photoshop help/digital darkroom

The labs will be scheduled for weeks 3 and 4 on:

September 10 (Tuesday) & September 17th
 1-4:10-5:30PM, 2- 5:40-7PM, and 7:10—8:30PM
 September 11 (Wednesday) & September 18th
 4-5:40--7PM, and 7:10-8:30PM

Mrs. Parker will also have three open labs for digital camera help during week two of the semester. Those labs are:

September 3rd 4:10-5PM and 5:10-6PM

September 4th 5:10-6PM

All labs will be held in room DAH009

Mrs. Parker will have office hours, as well for one on one time, if needed.

Hours:

Mondays 9-11AM and Tuesdays 1-2PM

Equipment and Equipment checkout

You are required to shoot assignments with a professional digital camera(DSLR) with manual exposure control. Yes, you can have a camera that has auto

exposure controls, but it must have manual exposure control capacity. We will shoot in a manual mode all semester. We strongly recommend that you purchase a Canon or Nikon. We'll review specific cameras in class. We have appropriate cameras available, as well as lenses for checkout during the semester.

Equipment checkout will be closed on:

Labor Day (Sept. 2nd)

Veterans Day (Nov. 11th)

And during Thanksgiving break (Nov.27th-29th.)

Equipment checkout begins on Thursday, August 29th.

All equipment must be returned on or before noon on Friday, December 6th, or a hold will be placed on your final grade and you will be charged the full replacement value of the equipment.

Equipment liability handout.

You will not be using any flash lighting during this class. We will learn to see, read, and use available light in all situations.

Discussions and critiques

This course combines lectures, critiques, and labs with applied practices. You will be expected to participate in discussions and critiques, and to examine your work, the work of your classmates, and the work of professional photojournalists. Your participation is essential and required.

Cell phones and texting

Not unless your head is falling off. This also applies to any computers, surfing, email, or other digital or non-digital materials. This applies to labs as well. Infractions will result in grade penalties. See me before class if you are dealing with any emergency situations and I will try and work with you.

Submission of Assignments

For all single photo assignments, you will follow these general guidelines.

1-Always shoot in RAW format.

2-Submit all assignments ONE HOUR before class is scheduled to begin.

3-Submit all your photos with the correct slug. (more later)

4-Submit a Photoshop contact sheet of 60-300 images from each shoot, unless otherwise stated.

5-Turn in all assignments electronically, unless otherwise stated.

6-Submit all assignments using the professor's server at the School of Journalism site:
Albans.Michael> J227> Assignment Drop Boxes> Assignment

ALWAYS BACK UP YOUR WORK!!! (on DVD, Cloud, external hard drive or all of them.) You are required to have an external hard drive. The school or your professor is not responsible for backing up your work.

After Hours Access

For after hours access to Don Anderson Hall, complete and submit this form online: <http://www.jour.umt.edu/don-anderson-hall-after-hours-access-request> by Friday Sept. 6. Complete only one request form per semester – be sure to list all courses you are taking which pertain to Don Anderson Hall. Any forms not submitted by Friday Sept. 6, will not have access – no exceptions. A door access-code will be assigned and provided to you via email, after submitting this form. This request will also activate your GrizCard for the building. All codes will remain active until the last day of the semester. All requests must be submitted by 5:00pm on Friday, September 6th.

Deadlines

Assignments must be submitted on the server no later than one hour before class begins on the due date. Therefore, your assignments are due at 11:40AM sharp. Deadlines are deadlines, especially in photojournalism, no excuses. A late assignment will receive one letter grade lower for each day it is late. Again, **DEADLINES ARE NOT FLEXIBLE IN JOURNALISM, OR IN THIS CLASS.**

Dropping the class

www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html

Beginning the sixteenth (16) instructional day of the semester through the forty-fifth (45) instructional day, students use paper forms to drop, add, and make changes of section, grading option, or credit. The drop/add form must be signed by the instructor of the course, as well as the student's advisor. The signed drop/add form must be returned to the Registration counter no later than the forty-sixth (46th) instructional day.

Beginning the forty-sixth (46) instructional day of the semester through the last day of instruction before scheduled final exams, students must petition to drop. The petition form must be signed by the instructor of the course and the student's advisor, as well as the dean of the student's major. **DOCUMENTED JUSTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR DROPPING COURSES BY PETITION.** One of the following four must be met;

Accident or illness
Family emergency
Change in student work schedule
Student does not receive any evaluation of performance before drop schedule.

No pass/fail grading option

Because J227 is a required course for all journalism students, it cannot be taken pass/fail. This applies **EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A JOURNALISM STUDENT**. Everyone in the class will earn a letter grade, no exceptions. You cannot audit this class, or any journalism class.

Resubmission of assignments

You will be allowed to resubmit any graded photographic assignment you turn in **ON TIME**, with the exception of your final Reporting With a Camera project. If you want to resubmit a graded photo assignment, you must do so within two weeks of the day you receive your grade for that assignment. I will grade the second version, and your final grade on the assignment will be the average for the two versions, unless the resubmitted version is more than two points higher than the original submission. In that case, I will post the higher score. Resubmissions must be clearly thought out and shot, as if a new assignment. You must reshoot a new set of pictures on each resubmitted assignment. Simply follow the assignment directions and redo that assignment. I want you to learn and grow. There is no place for lazy, shoddy, half-hearted work in this class. You can resubmit your seven single-picture assignments only, not your final project.

Professionalism and Attendance

J227 seeks to create a professional environment. That means, among other things, that we respect each other in this class. Ninety percent of what you do in the professional journalist world revolves around dealing with, listening to, and understanding people. Without this understanding, we can never do our job, which is to seek out the truth in words and pictures, to tell the stories of the people. How you work and interact with people will determine your success or failure in your career. Your attitude in this classroom and toward each other is vital. I expect you to show up on time, prepared, and with an open mind.

Due to the nature of the lab instruction, you CANNOT make up any lab that you miss.

If you know you are going to miss a class, or be late, please let me know as soon as you are able. I will be giving out cards with my office room, hours, email, and cell phone number. Please use it. Excused absences include personal or family

illnesses, or emergencies. See me for anything that might pull you away, physically or mentally. I will do the same.

Your attendance will be graded. Regular and timely attendance is important in this class. You are expected and required to participate in all discussions and critiques. You will be responsible for any materials that you missed in class. Please get the names and contact information of someone in class.

Grading and Grading Criteria

The main objective in this class is learning. Because I don't expect you to be proficient in photojournalism at first, I will grade the first assignment (depth of field) easier than others.

Each shooting assignment receives a grade based on both content and technical execution. The content portion is for image content, story, creativity, graphic impact and organization, light, and the freshness of your vision and developing style. The technical execution portion is for how effectively you executed your learned skill in things like focus, exposure, and camera use. I will look at all RAW images, as well as your use of editing software (Photoshop).

Your grade for the weekly assignments will be on a twenty (20) point scale. There will be seven (7) weekly photo assignments, for a possible one hundred forty points (140.) I will pay ample attention to improvement throughout the class and your desire to get better.

140 points	Seven weekly photo assignments (20) points each
10 points	Photo book report
10 points	Book report oral presentation
10 points	Classmate(or other) portrait
10 points	Caption writing exercise
10 points	Reporting with the Camera research update
40 points	Reporting with the Camera final
45 points	Attendance and participation
40 points	Midterm
25 points	Lab attendance and participation

340 points possible total

Caption Penalties: Starting with your Quality of Light assignment, each caption error in the following will result in an AUTOMATIC 60%
Misspelling of names or places
Not naming people who are identifiable in frame
Factual errors

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	68-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	78-79%	D	63-67%
B+	88-89%	C	73-77%	D-	60-62%
B	83-87%	C-	70-72%	F	59%- and below

Academic Honesty

Nothing that was shot before the semester began may be turned in for any assignment. You must turn in new work for each assignment. It is expected that all work done in the class on photographic exercises, captions, quizzes, (yes I said quizzes,) etc. Will be your own work. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the proper university authorities for disciplinary action.

Students must be familiar with the university conduct code:

<http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585>

You may not submit materials for this course that were previously, or will be concurrently submitted to another class, unless prior approval is made. To do so without permission will result in an F for the said assignment, and could result in an F for the entire course.

Supply List

You will need a professional digital camera (DSLR) with a manual mode, or a choice of manual and automatic modes and a lens. If you can secure a telephoto, or wide angle lens, or both, you will find your going easier and more fun, although not required. You will need compact flash cards. You will need an external hard drive to safely secure and backup images and assignments.

Places to purchase are listed below:

Local

The Darkroom 135 N. Higgins Ave 549-1070

Spotlight Photo, Corvallis, MT 961-3440

UC Bookstore 243-1234

Neal's Photo Philipsburg, MT 1-800-859-3855

Online & Phone orders

Adorama (adorama.com) 1-800-223-2500

B&H (bhphotovideo.com) 1-800-947-7785

Calumet (calumetphoto.com) 1-888-888-9083

Camera World (cameraworld.com) 1-800-226-3721

Glazer's Camera Supply (glazerscamera.com) 1-888-531-3232

Pro Photo Supply (prophotosupply.com) 1-800-835-3314

Robert's (robertsimaging.com) 1-800-726-5544

Week	Class Topic	Assignment Dates/Lab
1. Aug 27	Introduction and syllabus review Lab introduction and sign up COMPACT FLASH CARDS Assign photo book report	complete after hours access form & JSchool fully provisioned account Bring camera to class on Thurs.
Aug 29 th	Digital Cameras 1	deadline to buy compact F.C.
<hr/>		
2. Sept. 3	Exposure Aperture and shutter speed	OPEN LABS THIS WEEK Sept. 3 4:10-5 5:10-6 Sept. 4 5:10-6 Camera/darkroom
Sept. 5	Lenses Digital Camera 2 out in the field Assign classmate portrait	
<hr/>		
3. Sept. 10	Review aperture, shutter speed, exposure. Depth of Field assign depth of field assignment	LABS Sept. 10&17th 4:10-5:30, 5:40-7, 7:10-8:30 Sept. 11&18 th 5:40-7, 7:10-8:30
Sept. 12	Sports Assign sports	Classmate Portraits Due
<hr/>		
4. Sept. 17	Photoshop ethics Assign 15 people portraits Classmate portraits critique	LABS CONTINUE Depth of Field due

Sept. 19th

NO CLASS TODAY

5.

Sept. 24

Depth of Field critique

Quality of Light and Composition

Assign Quality of Light Assignment

Sept. 26

Photographing People/Approaching

Photo Book Report Due

Where can I go?

Public vs. Private

Captions

6.

Oct 1

Review caption exercise

Caption exercise due

Additional caption exercise

Oct. 3

Critique quality of light/ slideshow

Quality of Light due

7.

Oct. 8

Oral Presentations on books

Oral Presentations due

Oct. 10

Critique Composition

Composition Due

Oral presentations continue(if needed)

8.

Oct. 15

Ethics and photojournalism

Review midterm exam

Oct. 17

Midterm

Midterm

Emotion and interaction

Assign interaction

9.

Oct. 22

Critique 15 people portraits

15 people portraits due

Oct. 24

Portraiture

Assign portrait
Tease final project- Reporting With a Camera

10.
Oct. 29
Photo Story 1
Final project themes

Oct.31
Critique interaction

Interaction assignment due.

11.
Nov.5
Reporting With a Camera discussion

Story proposal /pitch due

Nov.7
Photo Story 2

12.
Nov.12
Critique Portraits

Portraits due

Nov.14
Features and pictorials

13.
Nov.19
Reporting With a Camera Updates

Final Project updates

Nov.21
History of Photojournalism
Reporting with a smartphone/ changing landscape
Skype

14.
Nov. 26
Critique Sports

Sports due

Nov. 28
Happy Thanksgiving

15.
Dec. 3
Humor and style
Personal vision/ famous Photogs

Evaluations

Dec.5

Reporting With a Camera critiques

Reporting With a Camera Due

ALL EQUIPMENT IS DUE BACK FRIDAY DEC. 8TH BY 12:00PM
IF YOU DO NOT RETURN EQUIPMENT BY THIS DATE YOU WILL BE
CHARGED REPLACEMENT COST PLUS RECEIVE AN INCOMPLETE IN
YOUR CLASS UNTIL YOU PAY IN FULL FOR THAT EQUIPMENT.

J227 ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Sept. 10	Take Classmate Portraits to your lab to work on	5pts.
Sept. 12	Classmate Portraits	10
Sept. 17	Depth of Field	20
Sept. 26	Photo Book Report	10
Oct. 1	Caption Exercise	10
Oct. 3	Quality of Light	20
Oct.8	Photo Book Oral Presentations	10
Oct. 10	Composition	20
Oct. 17	Midterm	40
Oct. 22	15 People	20
Oct. 31	Interaction	20
Nov. 5	Reporting With a Camera Proposal	10
Nov. 12	Portraits	20
Nov.19	Reporting With a Camera Proposal Update	10
Nov. 26	Sports	20
Dec. 5	Reporting With a Camera Project	40
	Attendance and Participation	45
	Lab Attendance and Participation	20