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## JRNL 227.01: Beginning Photojournalism

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*“There is only you and your camera.*

*The limitations in your photography are in yourself, for what we see is what we are.”—Ernst Haas*

### About the course:

J227 introduces you to the skills, theory and ethics of photojournalism. You will learn how to handle a digital SLR camera and create a workflow in the digital darkroom. The emphasis is on photographic content, and you will produce images from a variety of areas within photojournalism, such as portraits and sports. Because this is a journalism class, you will be expected, for *most* assignments, to photograph people you do *not* know. You will also learn how to recognize and generate story ideas. This class is completely digital - all work will be done with digital cameras and computers. You need a professional digital camera (DSLR) that has manual override capabilities. If you do not have one we will pair you up with another student and you will check out a camera to share for the semester.

### Assignments:

Your photographic assignments receive the most weight toward your final grade. Assignments will be discussed in class. You will be required to photograph seven single-photo assignments as well as a final photo project. You must wait until we discuss each assignment in class before photographing 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 midterm 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 stories through photography.
- To understand photojournalism and how to excel in the field.
- To know what makes a good photograph based on composition, lighting, content and technical quality.
- 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.

## Introduction to Photojournalism 1000

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### Methods:

Although I will give mini-lectures, we will spend most of our time in class looking at pictures and talking about what makes a photo successful. We will discover the art of seeing and the power of still images.

### 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](http://www.umt.edu/dss) for details.

### Textbooks:

There is no required text for this class. However, suggested readings listed in the syllabus refer to Ken Kobre's ***Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Boston, Focal Press, 2008.***

I have a few copies in my office that you can borrow during office hours.

- London, Barbara, Stone, Jim and Upton, John, *Photography*, 9th ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Longman, 2008.
- Parrish, Fred. S, *Photojournalism, An Introduction*, Belmont, CA, Wadsworth, 2002.

### Labs and Equipment Checkout:

A mandatory lab will meet for three weeks to provide you with basic technical training in the digital darkroom and workflow. You will receive a lab grade, which will be part of your final class grade. Labs are Tuesday and Wednesday evening for the following weeks: 3, 4, and 5 Lab attendance and participation is worth 15 points. There will also be an option digital camera lab during week 2.

Equipment checkout will be closed on President's Day (Feb. 17) and during spring break between (March 31 – April 4). Equipment checkout begins on Thurs. January 30.

ALL equipment must be returned during class on Thursday May 8, or a hold will be placed on your final grade and you will be charged the full replacement value of the equipment. We will discuss our equipment checkout policy, in detail, in class.

### Equipment:

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 capability. We will shoot in manual mode all semester. We strongly recommend that you purchase a Canon or Nikon if you plan on entering this field. We'll review specific cameras in class. And yes, we have cameras and lenses for checkout. If you need a camera you will be paired with a classmate and the two of you will be assigned a camera kit for the semester. Both of you will be responsible for that equipment.

**You will not be using any flash unit** in this class. If you use a flash, your grade will be lowered by five points. Everything will be photographed in available light - sunlight, indoor lighting, etc. We will talk about ISO speed in class.

## **Lab to Photography 100**

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### Discussions and Critiques:

This course combines lectures, critiques and lab time with applied practice. You will be expected to participate in discussions and critiques, and to examine your work, the work of your classmates and the work of the masters. Your participation is essential and required. **If you miss a critique, you lose a letter grade for that assignment.**

### Cell phones and text messaging:

If you bring your cell phone to class it must be in the off position. No text messaging allowed in class. If you are discovered text messaging you will receive a zero for that day – *that includes any assignment that may be due that day.* The same is true for doing any work not related to class on any computer. These rules also apply to your lab sections.

### Submission of assignments:

For all single-picture assignments you will follow these general guidelines. We will go over specific guidelines in class.

- 1. Always shoot in RAW format.**
- 2. Submit assignments ONE HOUR before class.**
- 3. Submit your photos with the correct Slug. We will go over this for each assignment.**
- 4. Submit a Photoshop Contact sheet of 60 to 300 images from your shoot.**
- 5. Turn in all assignments electronically unless directed otherwise.**
- 6. Submit all assignments using the Professors' server at the School of Journalism:  
> Lurgio.Jeremy, > J227, > Assignment Drop Boxes > Assignment**

\*\*\* Always back up your work!!! (on DVD or external hard drive or both.) You are **REQUIRED TO HAVE AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE**. The school 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://jour.umn.edu/current-students/Building-access.php> by Friday Feb. 7.

Complete only ONE request per semester. Be sure to select all courses you are taking which pertain to Don Anderson Hall, and include information in the "Comments Section" (300/400-level courses) to further clarify your request. Rooms for this class: 009, 305, 306. 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.

### Deadlines:

Assignments must be submitted on the server no later than 40 minutes before class on the due date. Therefore your assignments are due at (9:00 am). A late assignment will receive one letter grade lower for each day it is late. (For example; If you receive a 19 on the assignment (out of 20) but it is one day late, your grade will be a 17). **Deadlines are not flexible in photojournalism or in this class. A late assignment is one that is turned in after the deadline.** For example, if an assignment is due at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, turning in that assignment Tuesday at 9:01 a.m. means the assignment is late. If that same assignment is turned in Wednesday at 9:01 a.m. it is two days late.

## Intro to Photojournalism 100

Dropping the class [www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html](http://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 and the student's advisor. The signed drop/add form must be returned to the Registration counter no later than the **forty-fifth** instructional day.
- **Beginning the forty-sixth (46) instructional day of the semester through the last day of instruction before scheduled final examinations, students must petition to drop.** The petition form must be signed by the instructor of the course and the student's advisor and 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 or student does not receive any evaluation of performance before drop deadline.

### 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.

### Resubmissions of assignments:

You will be allowed to resubmit any graded photographic assignment you turn in **on time**, except the 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 (If you are absent the day assignments are returned, you still must resubmit within that time frame). I will grade the second version, and your final grade for that assignment will be the average of the grades for the two versions, unless the resubmission is more than two points higher than your first grade. In that case I will post the higher score. Resubmissions must be more than just four or five frames quickly taken. You must put in the same amount of effort you did on the first version. **You must reshoot a new set of pictures on each resubmitted assignment.** Simply follow the assignment instructions and redo that assignment. I want you to learn. This provides an opportunity to do so, plus a chance to improve your grade. You can resubmit your seven single 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 of our colleagues in the classroom. Ninety percent of what you do in the day-to-

day professional world revolves around dealing with people. How you work and interact with people is essential to your career. That's what journalists do. Your attitude in the classroom and toward each other is vital. It also means missing a class is like missing a day of work. I expect you to show up on time, and show up prepared. If we start class with a quiz or exercise and you are late, you will not be able to make up the work.

**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 class or be late, let me know in advance. An "excused absence" generally involves personal or family illnesses or emergencies. Routine medical appointments, job obligations, computer problems, and scheduled interviews are not valid reasons for missing class.

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### **Intro to Photojournalism Lab**

Your attendance will be graded. Regular and timely attendance is crucial in this class, and you are expected to participate in critiques. Much of the information covered in class will not be provided in the supplemental text or readings. You will be responsible for material covered in your absence (get notes from a fellow student – do not expect me to review the class discussion or lecture with you). Your assignments will still be due at their scheduled times. Critiques are an important part of the class, and unexcused absences will be noted.

#### *Grading and Grading Criteria:*

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

Each shooting assignment receives a grade based on both content and technical execution. The content portion is for image content, story, creativity, graphic organization and the freshness of your photographic vision. The technical execution portion is for how effectively you executed technical skills like focus and exposure. I will look at the quality of the RAW images and how you made any, if necessary, corrections in Photoshop.

Your grade for the weekly assignments will be on a 20-point scale. There will be seven weekly photo assignments, for a possible 140 points. In addition there will be other exercises and assignments. I also pay attention to improvement throughout the class.

140 points	Seven photo assignments (20 points each)
5 points	Classmate portrait to lab
10 points	Classmate portrait
10 points	Photo book report
10 points	Book report oral presentation
10 points	Caption writing exercise
5 points	Reporting With The Camera theme ideas
10 points	Reporting With The Camera proposal
10 points	Reporting With The Camera update
40 points	Reporting With The Camera final
45 points	Attendance and participation grade
40 points	Midterm

15 points                      Lab attendance and participation grade

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350 points                      Possible total

CAPTION PENALTIES: Starting with your Quality of Light assignment, each caption error of the following will result in an **automatic 60%**: misspelling the name of a subject, not naming people who are identifiable in your photos, misspelling of other proper names or places, and a factual error that can be verified.

GRADING SCALE:

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

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## Intro to Photography 100

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*Academic honesty:*

Nothing that was shot before this semester may be turned in for this class. You must turn in new work for each assignment in this class. It is expected that all work done in this class on photographic exercises, captions, quizzes, etc. will be your own. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the proper university authorities or disciplinary action. Students must be familiar with the conduct code online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/2585>.

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.

*Supply List:*

You need a professional digital camera (DSLR) with a manual mode or a choice of manual and automatic modes and a lens. More lenses are better (a wide angle and a telephoto). You need compact flash cards. You need an external hard drive to back up your work. Places to purchase supplies are listed below:

Missoula	The Darkroom, 135 N. Higgins Ave.	549-1070
	Yellowstone Photo, 321 N. Higgins	728-7637
	Spotlight Photo (Laura Capron), Corvallis	961-3440
	UC Bookstore	243-1234
	Neal's Photo (Stephen Neal), Philipsburg	800-859-3855
By phone	Adorama (adorama.com)	1-800-223-2500
and online	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](http://glazerscamera.com))  
Pro Photo Supply ([prophotosupply.com](http://prophotosupply.com))  
Robert's ([www.robertsimaging.com](http://www.robertsimaging.com))

1-888-531-3232  
1-800-835-3314  
1.800-726-5544



UNIT	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	LAB
<p>1. Jan. 28</p> <p>Jan. 30</p>	<p>Introduction and syllabus review Lab introduction and sign up COMPACT FLASH CARDS <i>Assign photo book report</i></p> <p>Digital cameras I Review Nikon and Canon</p>	<p>complete after hours access form &amp; J-School fully provisioned account <b>bring your camera to class on Thurs.</b></p> <p><b>Buy Compact Flash Card</b> Kobre pp. 3-15, 25-35, 74-91, 94-95</p>	
<p>2. Feb. 4</p> <p>Feb. 6</p>	<p>Exposure Aperture and shutter speed</p> <p>Lenses Digital camera II – out in the field <i>Assign classmate to photograph</i></p>	<p>Kobre pp. 16-21, 48-51, 57-71, 168-169</p>	<p>Digital Camera Lab</p>
<p>3. Feb. 11</p> <p>Feb. 13</p>	<p><i>Review Aperture, Shutter Speed, Exposure Depth of Field - out in the field Assign depth of field assignment</i></p> <p>Sports Classmate Portrait critique</p>	<p>Kobre pp. 36, 38-43, 97-113, 166-167</p> <p>Kobre pp. 127-131 <b>Classmate portrait</b></p>	<p>Digital Darkroom 1 - Saving Photos Bring Classmate Portraits to lab</p>
<p>4. Feb. 18</p> <p>Feb. 20</p>	<p>Intro to Photoshop Photoshop Ethics</p> <p>Critique Depth of Field</p>	<p><b>Depth of Field</b></p>	<p>Digital Darkroom 2</p>
<p>5. Feb. 25</p> <p>Feb. 27</p>	<p>Quality of Light and Composition <i>Assign Quality of Light and Composition</i></p> <p>Photographing/Approaching people Where Can I go: Public vs. Private Portraits <i>Assign Portraits</i></p>	<p><b>Photo book report written report</b></p>	<p>Digital Darkroom 3</p>

WEEK	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	LAB
<p>6. Mar. 4</p> <p>Mar. 6</p>	<p>Captions Caption exercises in class</p> <p>Critique Quality of Light Review Caption exercise</p>	<p><b>Quality of Light Caption exercise</b></p>	
<p>7. Mar. 11</p> <p>Mar. 13</p>	<p>Oral presentations on books</p> <p>Critique Composition Oral presentations on books (Cont.)</p>	<p><b>Photo book report oral presentations</b></p> <p><b>Composition</b></p>	
<p>8. Mar. 18</p> <p>Mar. 20</p>	<p>Ethics and photojournalism Review for Midterm Exam</p> <p>Midterm Emotion and Interaction <i>Assign Interaction</i></p>	<p><b>MIDTERM</b></p>	
<p>9. Mar. 25</p> <p>Mar. 27</p>	<p>Critique Portrait</p> <p>PHOTO STORY I <i>Assign Reporting with Camera</i></p>	<p><b>Portraits</b></p> <p><b>Story Theme ideas</b></p>	
<p>10. April 1</p> <p>April 3</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p> <p>SPRING BREAK</p>		

WEEK	CLASS TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
11. April 8  April 10	Photo Story 2  <i>Reporting with Camera Discussion</i>	<b>Story Proposal</b>
12. April 15  April 17	Reporting with a smartphone Pros and Cons History of Photojournalism  Critique Interaction	<b>Interaction</b>
13. April 22  April 24	Features/ Pictorials  Reporting with Camera Update	<b>Reporting with Camera Update</b>
14. April 29  May 1	Critique Sports  TBA	<b>Sports</b>
15. May 6  May 8	Humor and Personal vision Evaluations and feedback  Reporting With The Camera	<b>Reporting With The Camera Final</b>
<b>Final Exams period – Thursday May 15, 8 am – 10 am</b>		<b>Reporting With The Camera Final</b>

*All equipment due Thursday May 8 class*

If you do not return equipment by this date you will be charged replacement cost of said equipment, plus you will receive an incomplete in your class until you pay in full for that equipment.

**Year Assignment Due Dates**

<b>DATE DUE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Feb. 11	Take classmate portraits to lab	5
Feb 13	Classmate portrait	10
Feb 20	Depth of Field	20
Feb. 27	Photo book report	10
March 6	Caption exercise	10
March 6	Quality of Light	20
March 11	Photo Book Oral Presentations	10
March 13	Composition	20
March 20	Midterm Basics Test	40
March 25	Portraits I	20
March 25	Portraits II	20
March 27	Reporting with Camera theme ideas	5
April 10	Reporting with the Camera Proposal	10
April 17	Interaction	20
April 24	Reporting with the Camera Update	10
April 29	Sports	20
May 8	Reporting with the Camera Final Project	40
	Attendance and participation	45
	Lab attendance	15