

1-2004

## JOUR 328.01: Advanced Photojournalism

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# J328 ADVANCED PHOTOJOURNALISM

Spring 2004 • T / TH 12:40 - 2:00 p.m. • rooms: J204/212

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"The most extraordinary photographs merge composition with content on a level that rules do not explain."

- p. 329, Photography, 7th edition

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Photojournalism is a course in black-and-white and color photography for juniors, seniors and graduate students in the professional program. The course will prepare you for the work you will do in professional settings (newspapers, magazines, freelance assignments). The preparation will include spot news, photo illustration, features, sports, portraits and a picture story in a day. This class will teach you about "photo" with an emphasis on "journalism."

This is a skills course. You learn by doing. In-class group critiques will provide feedback on your photos and captions. You will also have an opportunity to hear a variety of guest speakers. Ruth Fremson, a New York Times photojournalist, will be visiting campus in April. Other local photographers will present their work and life experiences. Many of these lectures will overlap the different categories of assignments we will cover during the course.

Three foundations of photojournalism will be emphasized: quality of content, command of technical elements and the ability to meet deadlines.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To seek out great story-telling photographs
- To execute assignments with originality, integrity and passion
- To appreciate the role that photojournalism plays in shaping viewers' perceptions of people, places and objects
- To understand the power of images in combination with the written word
- To experience a photojournalist's world by putting yourself in her/his shoes with deadline news assignments

- To introduce you to digital photography
- To improve upon your existing portfolio
- To prepare you for the professional world of photojournalism

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- London, Barbara and Upton, John, *Photography*, 7th ed., New York, Longman, 2002.
- Kobre, Ken, *Photojournalism: The Professionals' Approach*, 4th ed., Boston, Focal Press, 2000.

#### ASSIGNMENTS

The photography assignments for the semester include:

- Trading places \* (10 points)
- Spot news \* (10 points)
- General news (10 points)
- Feature story with a reporter (10 points)
- Digital deadline \* (10 points)
- Prep sports (10 points)
- Business portraits (10 points)
- Photo illustration (10 points)
- Picture story in a day (20 points)
- Special presentation by the graduate students (20 points)
- Final portfolios with resumes \* (20 points)

The life of a photojournalist is unpredictable. The assignments with the asterisk have specific deadlines. The others may be completed in any order. You never know when you're going to find a great photo. One assignment must be turned in for each critique. No repeats. Spot news will be critiqued before final portfolios are due. Digital deadline will not receive a class critique.

For the final portfolio, you will create a web photo gallery portfolio using Adobe Photoshop. This portfolio will contain photos taken specifically for the assignments listed above. There will be a minimum of 15 photos; maximum of 25.

The lesson to be learned here is to pace yourself by working independently and continuously on the required assignments. Look ahead, make plans and follow through.

You will also be required to attend at least one of two Ruth Fremson presentations on April 12, 2004. The first one is at 3 p.m. in the Gallagher Building. The other one is 8 p.m. in

the University Theater. A three page, double-spaced typed paper will be due at the start of class on April 13.

#### GRADING

The photo assignment point value is noted above. The Ruth Fremson paper is worth 10 points. NOTE: You are required to reshoot one photo assignment without an asterisk that is turned in by deadline for your final portfolio.

Final grading scale:

A = (90-100 percent)

B = (80-90 percent)

C = (70-80 percent)

D = (60-70 percent)

F = (59 percent or lower)

Photo assignment points will be determined by photographic quality, human interest, news value, originality, and completion of requested "SUBMISSION" requirements. One point will be deducted for every five minutes an assignment is turned in late. Two points will automatically be deducted for no contact information, i.e. phone number of your subject. One point will be deducted for every typographic error in caption information.

#### COURSE POLICIES

Attendance. Because much of your learning will take place through presentations, discussions and feedback in class, attendance is vital. You cannot acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to improve as a photojournalist if you do not attend or arrive late. Classes will begin on time. Please be prompt. Arrive prepared. Attendance will be taken and more than two absences and habitual tardiness will impact your final grade.

Special needs. If you have a learning disability, a physical disadvantage or other special needs, please talk to me about it during the first week of the semester. I want to help you succeed in this required course.

Deadlines. Deadlines are important in journalism. Assignments must be in by the time and date noted on the course schedule.

Academic honesty. Honesty is expected in all your work. Please see the University of Montana's web site for the Student Conduct Code:

<http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccAcademicConduct.htm>

Any dishonesty will result in a lower grade and referral to appropriate university authorities for disciplinary action.

Submission of assignments. Each assignment has a specific deadline. Place the requested items for each assignment in a large manila envelop with your name, the course number and assignment written on the upper right

corner. On the weeks of critiques, the deadline to turn in photo assignments is 1 p.m. Mondays. The envelop should contain the requested items and be placed in the box outside my office door, 304C. Assignments left elsewhere will be late.

Graduate students. Extra academic work will be required of any graduate students. Early in the semester I will meet with graduate students to discuss the nature of this assignment and its weight in your grade.

#### MATERIALS

- reporter's notebook
- zip disc or CDs for archiving assignments
- film of your choice

#### Supplemental:

PBS videos in Mansfield Library:

"Developing Image 1900-1934" VT09956 (1 hour)

"Photographic Age 1935-1959" VT09957 (1 hour)

"Photography Transformed 1960-1999" VT 09958 (1 hour)

CLASS SCHEDULE - This outline is subject to change.

#### Week 1

Jan. 27 Course overview  
READ: Kobre - "Cameras & Film" pp. 218-243;  
"Digital Images" pp. 244-259; "Strobe" pp.  
261-281  
London - "Light & Film" pp. 70-86

Jan. 29 Discuss assignments  
READ: Kobre - "Spot News" pp.. 24-43

#### Week 2

Feb. 3 Covering spot news  
Guest speaker  
Canon or Nikon? Digital equipment procedures.  
Review laptop  
READ: Kobre - "Digital Images" pp. 244-259;  
"Strobe" pp. 261-281  
London - "Digital Camera" pp. 202-216;  
"Digital Darkroom" pp. 218-256

Feb. 5 Guest speaker  
READ: Kobre - "Assignment" pp. 2-23  
London - "Seeing Photographs" pp. 340-364

#### Week 3

Feb. 9 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - Trading Places  
Feb. 10 Critique

Feb. 12 Critique  
 READ: Kobre - "General News" pp. 44-57;  
 "Covering the issues" pp. 58-83

Week 4  
 Feb. 16 HOLIDAY  
 Feb. 17 Guest speaker

Feb. 19 General news and features  
 READ: Kobre - "Features" pp. 84-97;  
 "Portraits" pp. 98-113

Week 5  
 Feb. 23 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your choice  
 Feb. 24 Guest speaker  
 Features / Portraits

Feb. 26 Critique  
 READ: Kobre - "Sports" pp. 114-135

Week 6  
 Mar. 1 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your choice  
 Mar. 2 Sports

Mar. 4 Critique  
 READ: Kobre - "The Photo Story" pp. 136-169

Week 7  
 Mar. 8 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your choice  
 Mar. 9 Picture story in a day

Mar. 11 Critique

Week 8  
 Mar. 15 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your choice  
 Mar. 16 Photo illustration

Mar. 18 Critique

Week 9  
 Mar. 23 Guest speaker

Mar. 25 No scheduled class

Week 10  
 Spring Break: March 29 - April 2

Week 11  
 April 5 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your choice  
 April 6 Photoshop (room 212)

April 8 Critique  
READ: Kobre - "The Law" pp. 283-299; "Ethics"  
pp. 300-327

Week 12  
Advising week...

April 12 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - assignment of your  
choice  
Ruth Fremson - 3 p.m. in Gallagher Building;  
8 p.m. in University Theater

April 13 DEADLINE: Fremson paper due at start of  
class.

Law & Ethics  
April 15 Critique

Week 13  
M April 19 DEADLINE: 1 p.m. - spot news & final  
portfolios due  
T April 20 Critique - spot news  
Th April 22 Graduate student portfolios

Week 14  
April 27 Critique  
April 29 Critique

Week 15  
May 4 Critique / course evaluations  
May 6 Critique

Week 16  
FINAL: 1:10 to 3:10 p.m. Mon. May 10, 2004