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JRNL 257.02: Beginning Visual Journalism

Erik L. Petersen

University of Montana - Missoula, erik.petersen@mso.umt.edu

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JRNL 257•Beginning Visual Journalism

Autumn 2015

DAH 009, M,W 9:40-11am

Keith Graham

Don Anderson Hall 437

erik1.petersen@umontana.edu

Office hours: M,W, 9 – 11 am or 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 a digital SLR 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 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 in Final Cut 7 and digital still images in Adobe Lightroom
- To edit video using sequences to compress time
- To export video from Final Cut Pro and to understand the program's file structure

Graded Assignments

65% of final grade

1. Classmate portrait
2. Depth of Field
3. Caption exercise
4. Quality of Light
5. Composition
6. Walk across campus
7. Team sequence
8. Team interview
9. Gibson package

Final Project

20% of final grade

1. Final Portrait package
2. Sound bite package

Lab Attendance

5% of final grade

Class Attendance

10% of final grade

Attendance and Participation

Pre-registered students who fail to attend the first meeting of the class may be dropped. You are expected to attend every class. You can't succeed if you miss critique sessions, lectures and labs. Attendance will be a component of your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and lab section. If you come in late, you are responsible to let the instructor know. If you are late you will only receive half the attendance points for that day.

Moodle

I will use Moodle for this course. Your grades will be available there, along with some handouts and resources.

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 lose 10% of its grade for each day it is late.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN ONE WEEK AFTER THE DEADLINE.

If you can't meet a deadline due to illness or some other emergency, you must let me know before the deadline.

QUESTION ABOUT A GRADED ASSIGNMENT _ READ CAREFULLY

You have two weeks to discuss a posted grade. After that, you may not ask for a review of that grade.

Camera Equipment

Digital SLR cameras and essential equipment will be available for check out.

You will need:

1. A portable hard drive of at least 500 GB to store your digital photos and videos.
You will also use this drive for future journalism classes.
2. A 16 GB SDHC memory card class 10 with a read speed of 80MB/s
3. Optional- a card reader



videos.

Access

For after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall, you will be able to enter the building using the Griz Card swipe at the front door. You will also be given a key code for the door to DAH 009 and the radio studios in DAH 307-311.

For after hours access to Don Anderson Hall, complete and submit a form – see <http://jour.umt.edu/undergraduate/support/After%20Hours%20Access.php> by Friday, September 4 at 5pm. If you miss the deadline, you will not have after-hours access for the semester.

Complete only one request form per semester – be sure to list all the Journalism courses you are taking. Codes will remain active until the last day of the semester.

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.

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.

| Week | Date | Class | Assignment Due | Lab |
|------|------|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 8/31 | Introduction - Syllabus Still vs. Video Digital SLR Cameras I | | |
| | 9/2 | Digital Camera Instruction I Bring charged camera to class | | Camera Lab |
| 2 | 9/7 | Labor Day- NO CLASS | | |
| | 9/9 | Exposure: Shutter Speed and Aperture Bring charged camera to class | Classmate Portrait | Lightroom 1 Classmate |
| 3 | 9/14 | Depth of Field | | |
| | 9/16 | Critique Classmate Portrait Lenses | | LR 2 |
| 4 | 9/21 | Photographing People and Captions | | |
| | 9/23 | Quality of Light Critique Depth of field | Depth of Field | LR3 |
| 5 | 9/28 | Composition | | |
| | 9/30 | Small group and class critique Critique Quality of Light | Quality of Light | |
| 6 | 10/5 | The Art of Portraiture in Journalism Introduce portrait assignment Interaction and Emotion | | |
| | 10/7 | Sports Critique Composition | Composition | |

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|------|-------|---|---|---------------------|
| 7 | 10/12 | Ethics of still and Video Photojournalism MIDTERM | | |
| | 10/14 | Critique Final Portrait package | Final Project | |
| Week | Date | Class | Assignments | Lab |
| 8 | 10/19 | Types of shots What is editing? Sequences | | |
| | 10/21 | Final Cut Pro | Walk across campus edit | FCP1 |
| 9 | 10/26 | Cameras and equipment Review composition-framing-rule of thirds Bring charged camera to class | Walk across campus edit due | |
| | 10/28 | Shoot team sequence exercise Bring charged camera to class | Team Sequence | FCP2 transcoding |
| 10 | 11/2 | Shooting and lighting interviews Practice and troubleshooting Bring charged camera to class | Team sequence due | |
| | 11/4 | Shoot Team interview exercise Bring charged camera to class | Team Interview | FCP3 |
| 11 | 11/9 | Critique team sequences and team interviews, Discuss final projects with an example | Team interview due | |
| | 11/11 | Veterans' Day- NO CLASS | | |
| 12 | 11/16 | Audio booth training-Gibson package discussion | Gibson Track | |
| | 11/18 | Shoot Gibson Package (sequence people coming in and out of doors) Bring charged camera to class | Edit Gibson package | |
| 13 | 11/23 | 3 point editing-Cutting pictures to words Adjusting audio levels- audio transitions Setting up interviews | Gibson track and transcoded video due | |
| | 11/25 | Thanksgiving Break- NO CLASS | | |
| 14 | 11/30 | Critique Gibson package Choosing sound bites Working with sound bites | Gibson package due | |
| | 12/2 | Editing sound bites and adding b-roll | One minute sound bite package with 3-sequences | |

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|--------|-------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 15 | 12/7 | Edit lab-course evaluations | | |
| | 12/9 | Rough cut and feedback on sound bite pkg. | Rough cut of sound bite package due | |
| Finals | 12/17 | Thursday, December 17, 8 – 10 a.m. | Sound bite package due | |