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JRNL 429.01: Documentary Photojournalism

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Journalism 429 • DOCUMENTARY PHOTOJOURNALISM
Fall 2015 • T/TH 11:10 am-12:30 p.m. • classroom DAH 316

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"The role of the photographer is to witness and be involved with your subject." Cornell
Capa, founder, Fund for Concerned Photography

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND CLASS STRUCTURE

This is primarily a workshop class in which students will produce documentary photography projects. Through discussions and readings, we will talk about historical and contemporary documentarians and discover their passions and discuss their strategies. We will study documentary photography as a social tool used to investigate contemporary issues. The class will allow you to find support

for your work and discover your own style. Exploration of personal vision will be stressed.

You will work on a group project on Yellowstone as it will be celebrating its 150th anniversary as the first national park. And you will create a personal project involving a **social issue**. This final project will be compiled as a book, which you will shoot, write and design or as a multimedia project, using video and audio or stills, audio and video. We will discuss your projects in regular group critiques.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To learn to work with a team of photographers
- To introduce an ethnic diversity of documentary photographers
- To add a major photographic project to your portfolio
- To learn to initiate ideas and become “an idea person”
- To help establish and recognize your photographic style
- To increase your visual education
- To expand your critical and creative thinking
- To improve your technical and software skills

TEXT

Light, Ken, *Witness In Our Time: Working Lives of Documentary Photographers*, second edition, Smithsonian Books, 2010. Additional readings will be provided.

SUGGESTED READINGS

For additional information, you may find the following books and magazines helpful:

Photographers On Photography, by Nathan Lyons
Documentary Photography, by Arthur Rothstein
Doing Documentary Work, by Robert Coles
Hope In Hard Times, by Mary Murphy
and Aperture, PDN, Emerging Photographer magazines

DEADLINES

Assignments and updates must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will be assigned a zero. An assignment is considered late if you do not drop it in the Professors server one hour before class.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and timely attendance is crucial in this class. You will be responsible for material covered in your absence, and your assignments will still be due at their scheduled times. Class participation is an important part of this class, and unexcused absences will be noted. I expect you to come to class on time. If you are late, I will mark you absent.

Be sure to read the assigned pages and come prepared to discuss what you read.

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

GRADING

Each project will be given two grades, one for content and one for execution. The content grade is for what you have to say, creativity, graphic organization, and uniqueness of vision. The execution grade (which includes the captions, written portion and design/production) is for how effectively you used your technical skills to say it.

Yellowstone story ideas	20 points
Yellowstone updates	40 points
Yellowstone project	50 points
ASMP report	25 points
Vincent Laforet report	25 points
Personal Project ideas	10 points
Personal project Proposal	20 points
Personal Project Updates	50 points
Personal final documentary	100 points
URL of Video documentary project	10 points
Book or URL	10 points
Photo contest	20 points

A	93 to 100%
A-	90 to 92%
B+	88 to 89%
B	83 to 87%
B-	80 to 82%
C+	78 to 79%.

C	73 to 77%
C-	70 to 72%
D+	68 to 69%
D	63 to 67%
D-	60 to 62%
F	0 to 59%

NOTE ON GRADING

Be sure to read this carefully. Once a grade is posted on Moodle, if you have any questions or concerns about that grade, you have two weeks to discuss that grade with me. After the two weeks that grade is final and cannot be changed.

GRADUATE STUDENTS assignment

Graduate students will produce our Yellowstone Project. 75 points.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work turned in for this class (photographic or written) must be your own. Failure to comply with this will result in an F in the class. In addition, everything that you turn in for this class must be taken for this class. In other words, it is expected that you create new work for this class. 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. The code is 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.

students with disabilities

If you have a disability that you feel affects your performance in this class, please come see me and we'll seek a reasonable accommodation. Please see

www.umt.edu/dss for details.

J429 weekly schedule

Our schedule may change with notice. There may be guest speakers.

We will review our progress in early October. The quicker you get going, the more fun you'll have with your project – and the more satisfied you'll be.

ALL DEADLINES _ 10:30 am on day assignment is due.

EXCEPTION: FINAL PROJECT is due at 10 am

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION, YELLOWSTONE PROJECT

Sept. 1 Review syllabus

What is documentary photography?

Past projects

ASSIGNMENT DUE Students present Yellowstone story ideas

Sept. 3 Assign Yellowstone stories

ASSIGNMENT DUE Students present Personal Project ideas

If time, view multimedia documentary projects

Check *College Photographer of the Year* website

<http://www.cpoy.org/?s=Home>

WEEK 2 YOUR PROJECT

Sept. 8 Present personal project ideas

ASSIGNMENT DUE URL Of Video Doc Project. Details in class

Sept. 10 Contemporary video documentaries

WEEK 3 PERSONAL PROJECT, VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES

Sept. 29 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Yellowstone Project 1st update
Oct. 1 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** College Photographer of the Year
entries Must enter at least two images.

<http://www.cpoj.org/?s=Home>

More on Early Documentary Photographers

WEEK 6 FSA, VINCENT LAFORET, YELLOWSTONE

Oct. 6 FSA including Montana
Documenting Depression & Recovery
Read pages 15-23
Read Hope in Hard Times handout

OCT. 7. Wednesday, 7 pm, Underground Lecture Hall
Vincent Laforet lecture.
Two page report due by Thursday noon.

Oct. 8 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Vincent Laforet report

To Yellowstone

WEEK 7 FRANK (SWISS), RICHARDS, SALGADO (BRAZILIAN)

Oct. 13 Sebastiao Salgado
Read pages 108-116 +
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/09/magazine/an-interview-with-sebastiao-salgado.html?pagewanted=all& r=0> and
<http://www.timeoutsingapore.com/art/feature/sebastiao-salgado-interview-on-genesis>

Oct. 15 TBA

WEEK 8 YELLOWSTONE PROJECT 2ND UPDATES, DESIGNING THE PROJECT

Oct. 20 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Yellowstone Project 2nd Update

Critique Yellowstone updates

Oct. 22 Critique Yellowstone updates

Plus discussion of personal projects

WEEK 9 PERSONAL PROJECT, CIVIL RIGHTS IN US, APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Oct. 27 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** First update/ personal project

Need at least seven images or 3 minutes of video.

Drop update into the J429 folder. Be on time.

Oct. 29 Civil Rights & Apartheid

Matt Herron, et al: *The Civil Rights Movement*

Read pages 62-71

Peter Magubane: *South Africa*

Read pages 54-61

WEEK 10 YELLOWSTONE PROJECT: FINAL DRAFT & MONTANA PHOTOGRAPHERS

Nov. 3 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Final Draft of Yellowstone project

Nov. 5 Continue critique of Yellowstone projects.

Barbara Van Cleve

Hard Twist: Contemporary Western Ranch Women,

Images of Montana, Holding the Reins: A Ride Through Cowgirl Life,

All This Way for the Short Ride

Joanne Berghold

Montana Hometown Rodeo

Without Compass

WEEK 11 PERSONAL PROJECT: 2ND UPDATE

Nov. 10 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Personal Project 2nd update
Drop at least 25 images (at least 15 new) or at least 4 minutes of
multimedia, including at least two minutes of new multimedia

Nov. 12 TBA

**WEEK 12 HISPANIC AND AFRICAN AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY
PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Nov. 17 Gordon Parks: *Half Past Autumn*
Eli Reed: *Black in America*

Nov. 19 TBA

WEEK 13 PERSONAL PROJECT: 3RD UPDATE

Nov. 24 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Personal Project 3rd Update

Sign up for Fourth Update meetings with Keith

Nov. 26 NO CLASS: Happy Thanksgiving

WEEK 14 INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS 4TH UPDATE

Dec. 1 Grants & book publishers & print exhibitions & galleries, etc.

Dec. 3 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Fourth Update/ personal project. Individual
meetings

WEEK 15 EVALUATIONS & FINAL PROJECT

Dec. 8 Written class evaluations & comments/feedback on class

Documentary film

Dec. 10 **ASSIGNMENT DUE** Personal Project

NOTE: projects are due at 9:30 am

Note: We will discuss time & place of last class meeting.

J 429**Assignment due dates Fall 2015**

Sept. 1	Two Yellowstone story ideas	20
Sept. 3	Two Personal Project ideas	10
Sept. 8	URL of Video documentary project	10
Sept. 15	Final Personal Project proposal	20
Sept. 24	ASMP two page report	20
Sept. 29	Yellowstone Project: First Update	20
Oct. 1	College Photographer of the Year contest	20
Oct. 8	Vincent Laforet two page report	20
Oct. 20	Yellowstone Project: Second Update	20
Oct. 27	Personal Project: First Update	10
Nov. 3	Yellowstone: Final project	50
Nov. 10	Personal Project: Second Update	20
Nov. 24	Personal Project: Third Update	10
Dec. 3	Personal Project: Fourth Update	20
Dec. 10	Personal Project: FINAL	100