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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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Office hours: M,T,W 10-11 am and M, 1-2 pm

"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


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 Professor’s 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
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
ASSIGNMENT DUE  Formal Proposal/ personal project
This is the polished version. Write two to three pages. It should include one thesis sentence. Then in the body of the proposal explain your project. Provide context. Does it tie to a larger story of regional, national, or international interest? Answer the question, “Why should the viewer care?” Treat this like a proposal to an editor, and sell your idea. Give specifics based on initial research and explain shooting ideas. Describe your access at this point. No turning back - this will be the project you will pursue for the semester.
You change your subject after this date and you lose one letter grade.

Contemporary video documentaries

Sept. 17  to Yellowstone

WEEK 4  EARLY YEARS OF PHOTO DOCUMENTARY, ASMP FORMER PRESIDENT

Sept. 22  Review Yellowstone progress.
Starting history of Documentary Photographers
Wed. Sept. 23 7 pm at Law School, room 101
Presentation by Judy Herman, former president of ASMP, American Society of Media Photographers.
Two-page report due Thursday Sept. 24 by noon
Sept. 24  To Yellowstone

WEEK 5  YELLOWSTONE PROJECT, COLLEGE PHOTOGRPAHER OF THE YEAR CONTEST
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.cpoy.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  Sebastian Salgado
Read pages 108-116 +
salgado.html?pagewanted=all&r=0 and
http://www.timeoutsgapore.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.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>Two Yellowstone story ideas</td>
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<td>Sept. 3</td>
<td>Two Personal Project ideas</td>
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<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>URL of Video documentary project</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Final Personal Project proposal</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>ASMP two page report</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Yellowstone Project: First Update</td>
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<td>Oct. 1</td>
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<td>Oct. 8</td>
<td>Vincent Laforet two page report</td>
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<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Yellowstone Project: Second Update</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
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