

**Syllabus
COMM 4403
Photojournalism**

**Spring, 2005
HU 133
T,Th 3:30-4:45**

Instructor: Dr. Glenn Novak, Professor Emeritus of Mass Communications
Office: Hu 216 Phone: 678-839-4942
Office Hours: T,Th 1:00-2:00 pm, 4:45-5:45 pm
E-mail: gnovak@westga.edu

Course Description: A study of the history and importance of photographs for the print media. Practice in the production of photographs appropriate for newspapers and news magazines, including composition, depth of field, and cropping. Use of digital camera technology with introduction to standard darkroom techniques.

Course Pre-requisite: COMM 3301

Credit Hours: 3.0

WAC Course: No

Area of Major: Technology Competency

Course Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Students will be able to explain the nature and development of photojournalism from the earliest days of photography to the present. (*This course learning outcome supports degree program learning outcome #1: Students will be able to understand critically the origin, development, and paramount economic, legal/policy, social, and effects issues of mass media.*)**
- 2. Students will be able to clearly articulate the relationships among photojournalism, newspapers, and newsmagazines, and the legal and ethical environments in which they operate. (*This course learning outcome supports degree program learning outcome #2: Students will be able to understand critically the structure and process of mass media industries within economic, legal, and ethical considerations.*)**
- 3. Students will be able to correctly demonstrate proper photojournalistic skills including loading film, shooting film, and cropping images, using digital and standard cameras, with proper attention to the technical and aesthetic dimensions of focus, depth of field, emulsion speed, aperture, lighting, and composition. (*This course learning outcome supports degree program learning outcome #4: Students will develop proficient use of technology to produce visual and audio messages for mass media within varying aesthetic, stylistic, technical, ethical, and legal considerations.*)**
- 4. Students will be able to write effective, descriptive, and concise captions for the photos they produce in this class. (*This course learning outcome supports degree program learning outcome #3: Students will develop the ability to write mass media messages with accuracy, clarity, and brevity on deadline and within varying stylistic, ethical, and legal considerations.*)**

Textbook: Kobre, Kenneth. *Photojournalism: The Professionals' Approach*, 5th ed.

Cameras: You will need access to cameras in this course. Obviously, the better the camera and the lens, the better the quality of the picture. The better the quality of your picture, the higher the grade. Try to locate for your own use the best possible 35mm single lens reflex camera. This is a camera that allows you to view the subject through the lens and not a viewfinder, and provides opportunities for selective focus, depth of field manipulation, and lens interchangeability. You will be able to make do, however, with any standard camera that accepts color or black and white print film. We have several Sony Mavica digital cameras for students to check out for this course, but you will need to plan ahead because demand may be heavy. Reserve the cameras ahead of time to avoid problems and disappointments. Your best situation is using your own camera or that of a friend or family member, rather than sharing our equipment. You must buy your own film and pay for your own processing if done commercially. Remember, it will always cost you more if you are in a hurry and go with the one-hour photo processing systems. Plan ahead and you can save money. In this course, we will shoot both standard photographic film, and do some digital photography as well.

Assignments and Grading Percentages:

1. Project #1: Sports Photo Package	due 1/27	10%
2. Project #2: PR Photo Package	due 2/17	15%
3. Project #3: Feature/Spot News Photos	due 3/31	15%
4. Project #4: Photo Essay	due 4/26	20%
5. Exam #1	on 3/1	20%
6. Exam #2	on 4/28	20%

Projects and exams will receive letter grades. Grades in this course will be computed using the following system:

A=4.0 A-=3.7 B+=3.3 B=3.0 B-=2.7 C+=2.2 C=2.0 C-=1.7 D+=1.3 D=1.0 D- =0.7 F=0

Attendance: Attendance is expected. You will not do well in this course if you do not attend regularly. Much of the material you will be learning is presented in class through lectures, discussions, and group analyses of famous photographic images.

Deadlines: Deadlines are important and are enforced. Exams not taken on the assigned dates and work not turned in on due dates will receive letter grades of F. No make-up exams or assignments, and no extra credit. No excuses, no exceptions.

Drop/Withdrawal: The last day to drop this course is January 12, 2005. The last day to withdraw is March 3, 2005. Failure to drop or withdraw by the stated deadlines constitutes an unconditional acceptance by the student of all terms, requirements, policies, and grading criteria listed on this course syllabus.

A grade of Incomplete will not be given in this course except in extreme cases involving prolonged and documented illness or other emergency, and solely at the discretion of the instructor.

- Rules:**
1. Turn off all cell phones before entering classroom.
 2. Be prepared to take notes each day we meet.
 3. Notes on videos shown in dark classroom will be available on handouts.
 4. Classroom lectures move quickly. You will need to write very fast. Feel free to tape record any lectures any time you wish.
 5. Sit near the front of the class if you expect to see everything. Much of what we look at together in class is small and not easy to see.
 6. If there is room near the front, move forward to hear better.
 7. Plan to bring a large, double-sided, full-sheet, 200-item NCS #229633 General Purpose Answer Sheet to each of the testing sessions, along with a #2 pencil. Coding instructions will be given prior to the testing session.
 8. You are completely responsible for digital cameras and accessories that you check out from HU 139. Check-out period is 24 hours.
 9. Do not disrupt the class in any way. Arrive promptly and plan to stay for the entire class. If you cannot do this, please take advantage of the lenient attendance policy and stay home.

Course Structure: This course uses the BIS (Bifurcated Instructional Strategy) approach. In general, Photographic Skills will be covered on Tuesdays, and Photographic History/Aesthetics and Conceptual Frameworks will be covered on Thursdays.

Course Outline (subject to change if we find we are ahead of or behind schedule, based on varying degrees of student interest in our discussion topics and photographic selections.)

Week 1

Jan 11 Introduction to course. Distribute syllabus. Components of good photojournalism: luck vs. skill. The Pulitzer Prize: Oswald and Kent State. Assign Project #1: Sports. Read ch. 1 and 7.

Jan 13 Sports Photography. Video: *Picture Perfect* (1 hr.). Review ch. 1 and 7. Read pp. 220-23: captions.

Week 2

Jan 18 Shutter speed, aperture, lenses, types of cameras, writing captions. Review video and chapter 7. DVD documentary: "The Big Picture" (8 min.)

Jan 20 Video: *Captured Light* (Century of Inventions). Read ch. 11, pp. 225-44.

Week 3

Jan 25 35mm photography, film speed, depth of field, focus, freezing action, impressions of speed.

Jan 27 Review video and key historical figures and events. **Project #1 due: Sports Photo Package.** Read ch. 11 pp. 244-55.

Week 4

- Feb 1 Return Proj. #1. Digital Photography. Zoom ratios, pixels, camera choice. Assign Project #2: PR Photo Package.
- Feb 3 Review chapter 11. Sony Mavica demo. Read chapters 5 and 9.

Week 5

- Feb 8 Feature Photographs and Illustrations. Photography for PR and Advertising. Review ch. 5, 9. Read ch. 15.
- Feb 10 Video: *American Photography: A Century of Images*. Part 1 (75 min.). Read chapter 14 pp. 328-33.

Week 6

- Feb 15 Photofact or Photofiction: Digital manipulation of photos. What is possible? What is ethical? Return to Kent State.
- Feb 17 **Project #2 due: PR Photo Package.** Video part 2. Read pp. 382-95.

Week 7

- Feb 22 Return Proj. #2. Adobe Photoshop. Tools handout. TLC lab work.
- Feb 24 Video part 3. Review ch. 15. Handouts to review video.

Week 8

- Mar 1 **Exam #1** (see general content analysis elsewhere on this syllabus)
- Mar 3 Last day for W. Return exam grades. Doug Mills video. Review ch. 1.

Week 9

- Mar 8 TBA. Read chapter 2 and reserve article: "Triumph of the Still." DVD documentary "Fire!" (12 min.)
- Mar 10 TBA. Read chapter 3. DVD documentary: "Shooting Stars" (28 min.)

Week 10

- Mar 15 The news photograph. Spot news vs. general news vs. feature. Assign Proj. #3: Feature/Spot News Package. Review ch. 1,2,3. Read chapter 13.
- Mar 17 Photojournalism and the Law, part 1. Ch. 13.

Spring Break

Week 11

- Mar 29 Photojournalism and the Law, part 2. Ch. 13. Read chapter 4.
- Mar 31 **Project #3 due: Feature/Spot News Package.** Video: Perils of Journalists Abroad. Chapter 4.

Week 12

- Apr 5 Return Proj. #3. Photojournalism and War: Capa, Rosenthal, Burrows, etc.
- Apr 7 Classic photographs from the past. *The Migrant Mother* analyzed. Assign Project #4: The Photo Essay. Read chapter 8.

Week 13

- Apr 12 The Photo Essay: Telling a story. Chapter 8.
Apr 14 The Photo Essay: Background work, establishing trust. Read ch. 14.

Week 14

- Apr 19 Ethics: What is too graphic? What is right? Ch. 14. Read ch. 6.
Apr 21 Chapter 6: Portraits. Diane Arbus and Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Week 15

- Apr 26 Course evaluation. Review for Exam #2. **Project #4 due in office.**
Apr 28 Last day of class. **Exam #2.** (see syllabus for general item analysis).
There is no final exam in this course. Grades will not be posted or given out by email. Check Banweb for final course grades.

Material to be covered on Exam #1 (March 1):

- Ch. 1: Assignment
Ch. 5: Features
Ch. 7: Sports
Ch. 9: Illustrations
Ch. 10: Photo Editing, pp. 220-23 only (captions)
Ch. 11: Camera Bag
Ch. 14: Ethics, pp. 328-33 only
Ch. 15: History
Special Section, pp. 382-95, Photoshop
Plus: lectures, demos, videos, photos, discussions, handouts, DVD (The Big Picture)

Material to be covered on Exam #2 (April 28):

- Ch. 1: Assignment
Ch. 2: Spot News
Ch. 3: General News
Ch. 4: Covering the Issues
Ch. 6: Portraits
Ch. 8: Photo Story
Ch. 13: Law
Ch. 14 Ethics
Plus: lectures, demos, videos, photos, discussions, handouts, reserve room article
"Triumph of the Still" by Ingrid Sischy, from *Vanity Fair*, Dec. 2001, textbook DVD
(Fire! and Shooting Stars)

Some students enrolled in this class have taken or are now taking the Mass Media Law class. We will also cover some aspects of the law as it applies to Photojournalism (access, libel, trespass, property rights, etc.). Use courtesy and good judgment in this course when you are taking pictures of people. Be assertive but protect yourself and the rights of your subjects. Not all persons want their pictures taken. Get permission first. Pick up and complete the subject consent form from staff in HU 139. To protect yourself from arrest or from a lawsuit, have your subject(s) read and sign the consent form. Keep the original to protect yourself and the department. If you do not, you proceed at your own risk and UWG and its employees will be under no obligation to explain or defend your actions. This warning is issued in compliance with policies adopted by the Department of Mass Communications and Theatre Arts in 2004. If you wish further clarification, you should arrange a consultation with Dr. Goff or Dr. Yates.