

**COMM 4403 PHOTOJOURNALISM** Spring 2018 ANTH G15  
Section 01 (CRN 10905): M/W 12:30 – 1:45 Section 02 (CRN 13196) M/W 3:30 – 4:45

**INSTRUCTOR: Chris Renaud**

Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Contact: [crenaud@westga.edu](mailto:crenaud@westga.edu) (do not use D2L)

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**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- ***Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach, Sixth Edition***. Kobre, Kenneth. Burlington, MA: Focal Press. Softcover. ISBN-13: 978-0-7506-8593-1. Found cheaply online at Chegg or Amazon.com
- **Hard Drive** (at least 80 GB free space recommended) for **portable** and **semester-long storage** of your raw and edited images.
- Other required readings and materials will be distributed electronically.
- **OPTIONAL:** 1 Class 10 SD Card (16 GB or more recommended for majors in film/video) for use in camera

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

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This hands-on skills course in journalistic photography is also study of the history, news- and cultural values, practices and techniques of photography for convergent media, including close analysis of the aesthetic and societal impact of photographs.

Assignments will offer extended practice in the production of high-quality journalistic and documentary photographs appropriate for print and online news delivery, as well as the long-form photographic essay. We will also briefly consider, and contrast, the purposes of photography in marketing and other branding.

This course will approach photography as a serious craft and professional practice. We will use digital processing and editing tools, while acknowledging the photography's primary origins and development as a photochemical medium.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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1. To understand how to **analyze** photographs for their aesthetic, documentary, journalistic and rhetorical value, within contemporary and historical contexts.
2. To **acquire** and **develop** technical **proficiency** needed to shoot, edit and deliver publication-ready photographs, on deadline, in a digital convergence environment, using a DSLR camera in manual mode.
3. To **recognize** and **pursue** the journalistic value of visually documenting stories amongst a variety of diverse groups within our community, including religious, ethnic and economic groups.
4. To develop **awareness, sensitivity** towards and **examine** the ethics of documentary and journalistic image-making through experiential practice and analysis.
5. To **practice** and **develop** critical communications skills in a workshop setting.

**SEQUENCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will develop their **understanding** of the medium's function as a means of communication and creative expression.
2. Students will be able to **produce** content that aligns with industry standards for specific audiences.

**DEPARTMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course meets Mass Communications Department Learning Objective #3

Students will demonstrate *ability to relate and/or apply* concepts, theory/research, and professional principles to analyze and synthesize information, create, develop, produce, and/or write convergence journalism, film and media arts, and/or public relations communications for converging digital, multi-media, and traditional media.

### **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

Our assignments and schedule will be detailed separately. Please see D2L and our printed handouts for full information. Your grade is determined by accumulating points on the following assignments.

5 points	Introductory assignment – 10 photographs
5 points	Photographer Profile Presentation
5 points	How-To Series
5 points	Photoshop Collage / Ad Layout
10 points	Event Coverage Assignment
10 points	Quizzes and Practice Exams (cumulative)
10 points	Final Exam
10 points	Reading Responses (cumulative)
5 points	Final Portfolio
25 points	Final Project - Visual essay
10 points	Daily Participation
<b>100 points</b>	<b>TOTAL 100 points = 100 percent</b>

### **GRADE ALLOCATION**

A = 90 - 100%      B = 80 – 89%      C = 70 – 79%      D = 60 – 69%      F = 59% or below

**As in real life, our assignments and schedule are subject to some modification according to course needs. Adaptability is a critical professional skill, especially in this field.** Know now that the world of the photojournalist changes constantly in response to events and opportunities, and this class, as fairly and gracefully as possible, will also.

### **FINAL EXAM and FINAL PROJECT/PORTFOLIO**

**Your FINAL PROJECT and PORTFOLIO will be due on electronically (GoogleDrive) during our FINAL EXAM TIME on Wednesday, Wed May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will meet for this class period. The 12:30 section meets from 11 AM – 1 PM. The 3:30 section meets from 2 – 4 PM.**

Your organized (by folder) electronic portfolio will include all of your assignments, as detailed in our handouts. Be overly cautious in backing-up your work! The digital realm can be fickle and unpredictable. You are responsible for maintaining your GoogleDrive portfolio and for keeping separate copies of your work (on your own hard-drive) organized for the purpose of submitting a full accounting of your work for the semester by final exam date.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS, VALUES AND POLICIES**

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**Participation (10%)** = You will be evaluated on the following core values.

- 1) Being on time and actively “present” (engaging and participating in all class activities).
- 2) Speaking up with thoughts, ideas, feedback and commentary without being called upon.
- 3) Your familiarity with and ability to discuss our readings.
- 4) Meeting deadlines.
- 5) Valuing and embracing the feedback process as a photographer and peer evaluator.

**Attendance / Professionalism:** We will align with professional expectations of behavior, especially regarding attendance. If you give yourself permission to miss a class or skip an assignment, you will find yourself behind and struggling to regain your velocity. You cannot participate if you do not attend class.

**Absences:** If you must miss a class, please notify me in writing via Gmail (do not phone or use D2L) as soon as possible *before* class at [crenaud@westga.edu](mailto:crenaud@westga.edu) to keep me informed. At the end of the day, what you miss from your absence is your responsibility, and yours alone. I do not weigh or adjudicate excused or unexcused absences. **You are simply present, active, learning and participating, or you are not.** You cannot participate if you are not here. Absences beyond one session will carve into your final grade at - **4% per absence**. If you ask “Did/will I miss anything important?” the only real answer is “Yes.”

**That said, sooner or later everyone feels blocked, uninspired, or afraid to show what they do or don’t have ready.** This is a deadline driven world. You are expected to make the deadline. I also expect you to be able to discuss work in progress. This class will be a **safe place** for you to experiment and explore, so don’t hesitate to take risks and to work outside of your comfort zone - this is how we grow as individuals and professionals - but that presumes an active, invested process, and that you will complete your work. Meeting deadlines is crucial professionally. You will be evaluated on what you turn in, not your notions or intentions.

**Late work disrupts our schedule and will be penalized** at 25% per session late, after evaluation of the work. Do know that **if your assignment is not finished, your best choice is to still come to class and participate.**

**About Workshops:** Most of our class time will be spent in **active conversation** rather than lecturing. Your success in the course will hinge on whether you “**buy in**” with your own motivation. Your **participation grade** will be determined based on your active participation / engagement in class, including the ideas behind our readings and exercises, analyzing photos and work-in-progress (your own and others).

**Giving and receiving feedback is one of the most important skills we’ll practice** in this class. It’s crucial for honing ideas and helping you produce the best work possible. It’s also an essential skill in every media industry. Meaningful discussion relies on balance of **candor** and **respect**.

**Making work while learning new skills requires some risk:** Seek a strong personal investment during creation, followed by a practiced distance during analysis. It’s not always easy, but its crucial. Embrace the idea of evaluating your own work with the same objectivity as you would someone else’s, to clearly identify its strengths and weaknesses. Together (during in-class feedback) we’ll highlight successes and analyze areas of improvement to make the best work possible.

## **PROFESSIONAL VALUES**

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**Being “Present”:** 1) First, be here. 2) Be on time. 3) Invest in what’s happening right now in the room, in the place where you are. These are the first standards upon which I and the most of the professional world will evaluate you for the foreseeable future. Doing things directly **unrelated** to the class during class-time (*e.g. emailing, social-networking, “multi-tasking,” not paying attention, sleeping,*) **will** directly affect your participation/professionalism grade.

**Cell Phones:** What you do here impacts classroom culture. If you have a situation to monitor, please let me know when you arrive. Otherwise, using a cell phone is fundamentally incompatible with being “present” in the classroom. **THERE WILL BE NO USE OF CELL PHONES IN THIS CLASS.** Turn your phones off when you enter and put them completely away. If you use your cell phone, you will be considered “non-participating” and absent for the day.

**Food and Drink:** We will be dealing with expensive photographic and computer equipment. **No food or drink will be allowed in the classroom, edit suites or studio at any time.** No exceptions.

**Equipment Checkout:** We will follow the checkout guidelines and policies posted outside G-10, which will also be provided in a separate handout. **Late returns of equipment** have an impact on the entire department, and will affect your ability to checkout equipment for this and other Mass Communications classes. Assignments are not complete until borrowed equipment is returned, and thus impact your grade.

### **Contacting Me & Email Protocol**

If you have questions, please be willing to ask them in class, where everyone can benefit from the same information. That said, if you need to contact me for any reason, **e-mail me from your westga.edu account at [crenaud@westga.edu](mailto:crenaud@westga.edu).** **Do NOT use D2L.** I will not check or respond to messages left there.

**Email is formal professional communication**, distinct from informal messaging (which we all use, self-included) and is the proper method of contact with me as your instructor. As you practice to enter the professional world, please address me formally and respectfully, with a salutation (Hello Professor Renaud) and the clearest explanation of your question, as completely as possible. Practice now with me, for you will be evaluated professionally under harder circumstances in the real world.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Exercising personal freedom is an appealing and essential part of adult life. It also presumes shared responsibility. In order to create an atmosphere where individual expression and social interchange are respected, please observe the following guidelines: (1) address each other with respect, even if you disagree with a viewpoint; (2) contribute to discussions often, but concisely, without dominating; (3) stay focused on the topic being discussed, or at minimum be able to explain the thought process behind your digression (4) channel your energy into the main conversation. Side-chatter is disruptive and disrespectful to the classroom environment. Disruption will be looked upon unfavorably.

## **UNIVERSITY & OTHER COURSE POLICIES**

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Policies applying to all courses at UWG can be found at the following link. We will uphold these:

[https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common\\_language\\_for\\_course\\_syllabi\\_v2.pdf](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/assets/docs/faculty-resources/common_language_for_course_syllabi_v2.pdf)

### **Americans With Disabilities Statement**

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans With Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, first please seek assistance through the Center for Disability Services. **A CDS Counselor will coordinate those services, and provide you with the necessary documentation to give to me.** Students who need accommodations for learning or who have particular needs **should then share these concerns or requests with me early in the term (no later than week 3 of the course).** See the above link.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated in this or any other UWG course. It will result in failure on assignment(s) as well as possible disciplinary sanction(s) as stipulated by university rules. See the link above.

### **Equal Opportunity Statement**

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by The University of West Georgia.

### **Affirmative Action Statement**

The University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

### **Contacting You**

You are expected to have access to your westga.edu account for all communication regarding the course. While you may find my contact information or other students through D2L-CourseDen, **I will reply to your regular my.westga.edu (Gmail) account, not D2L.**

### **MY ROLE**

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I am ***fundamentally committed*** to helping you understand concepts, principles, software and techniques – both professionally and by personal inclination. I am fully invested in helping you to learn.

My method is to 1) assign exercises and projects that teach you both technical skills and their purposeful application, 2) provide interesting examples and context, and 3) offer clear, frank, benevolent and **challenging** feedback, to make you a better photographer and collaborator and 4) to facilitate lively in-class discussions.

I am available and ready to help you when you need, but you must to ask if you are not receiving what you expect. (Communication!) The harder you work, the more you ask for feedback and the more ambitious your goals, the more you will succeed. Ask. Seek. Question.

Aim high. Stay in the game. Take risks and explore. I will be there for you.

**OUR SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED AS A LIVE-LINK on D2L**