

Fall Semester 2017
JTC 335 – Digital Photography – Section 2

Department of Journalism and Media Communication
Colorado State University

Instructor for Section 2 – Dr. Pete Seel

Office – Clark C-205

Phone – (970) 491-2030

Email – pete.seel@colostate.edu

Section 2 lecture – **Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-9:50 a.m.** in Clark C-235

Lab **follows each lecture** from **10:00 to 10:50 a.m.**

Canvas course website for section 2 – <https://colostate.instructure.com/courses/52011>

Personal website (portfolio) – <http://sites.google.com/site/peterbseelsite/>

Prerequisites – Students must have completed JTC 211, Visual Communication, prior to enrolling in this class. The course is for students who approach photography and photojournalism as thoughtful and creative endeavors – and have acquired basic digital photographic skills (including the use of Photoshop software) in JTC 211. **Students must also provide their own cameras** – see Special Requirements section below.

Course Description – The course will begin with a review of fundamental concepts and practices in both digital and analog photography, followed by a review of technical issues unique to digital imaging. Once these technical issues are addressed, the focus in the course will shift to journalistic, aesthetic, artistic, and ethical considerations in photography. The course will explore varied approaches to photography and photojournalism as it is currently practiced by working professional photographers. ***This course will improve your photographic vision and skills.***

Course Objectives -- by the end of this course, students will have:

1. successfully completed assignments in **general news, sports, feature, environmental portraiture, and public communication photography** – and understand how to critique these images and those of others;
2. learned to **effectively and creatively use the tools of photographic technology** to achieve desired image creation objectives, including time exposure and close-up images;
3. a new understanding of the **varied roles of the photographer as an artist, photojournalist, social commentator, and historical documentarian**;
4. a heightened awareness of the need to **accurately represent diverse cultures, perspectives, and social practices in your images** to a variety of audiences online and in print publications;
5. a concrete understanding of **the ethical and legal issues involved in the practice of professional photography and photojournalism**;
6. **created a portfolio of creative photographic images** from course assignments.

Required Texts:

Peterson, B. (2016). *Understanding Exposure (4th edition)*. New York: Amphoto. Bring this to class for each session.

Optional texts: Kobre, K. (2008, 6th edition). *Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach*. Burlington, MA: Focal Press.

Methods of Evaluation -- There are eight single-photo assignments, an online photo story, a research assignment on an assigned photographer (submitted in PowerPoint), a mid-term exam, a final course portfolio, and a final examination. All of your work in this course will be graded on an individual basis – there are no group assignments. *On-time* completion of *assignments that meet all requirements* will result in a grade of “C” (for **average** work). Course assignments that are **above average** in content and style (and meet all requirements) will be assessed as “B” work. Assignment grades of A-, A, and A+ **are reserved for exceptional work of excellent or outstanding quality.**

Course Elements and Grade Scale

Points	Element
240	Weekly assignments (8 @ 30 pts.)
50	Photographer research assignment
100	Mid-term exam
30	In-class participation
60	Photo story (10-15 images)
20	Final portfolio (all course projects included)
<u>100</u>	Final exam
600	Total points possible

Total Points	Final Grade
580-600	A+
560-579	A
540-559	A-
520-539	B+
500-519	B
480-499	B-
460-479	C+
420-459	C
360-419	D
0-359	F

Lab Fee – The course fee underwrites the purchase of new lab computers, updated versions of Photoshop that we'll be using for image editing, and unlimited access to Lynda.com software training videos. After cropping and light-dark adjustments in Photoshop, your photos may be uploaded to any online photo printing service. All photo assignments will be submitted as **resized versions of 500-700 KB file size online in Canvas** (typically on Tuesdays by 11 a.m. at the end of the lab where you'll be editing them) and then as **8 X10 or 8 X 12 prints with captions typed and taped on the back (at the start of class)** -- except for the research assignment which will be posted as a PowerPoint file on the course Canvas site (as in JTC 211). The photo story will be posted on a free website that you create for this assignment.

Special Course Requirements – Each student in the course must have their own digital still camera with at least a **3X optical zoom lens and a quality tripod**. The department has **30 Nikon D3200 DSLRs** available for 24-hour checkout for more advanced assignments such as the sports photo. Students with aim-and-shoot cameras are encouraged to check out the Nikon DSLRs and learn to use them.

Participation and Assignment Completion – Each student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, their photography assignments, and the photo work of others. The success of the course is dependent on the ability of students to intelligently articulate their thoughts about the assignments and the work to be critiqued. Therefore, attendance at assigned class sessions (including all labs) is required and roll will be taken in each course lecture and lab. Each unexcused absence will lower the course grade by 1/3 increment of a letter grade – thus three absences will lower a “B” grade in the class to a “C.”

Office Hours -- **9:30-11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays** in Clark C-205 (or by appointment at other times). Please stop by if you would like to discuss assignments or work through issues in your photo story.

Deadlines – As you know, meeting assigned deadlines is critical in journalism. Once a publication goes to press there are no late submission options – and this applies to this course. All photo print assignments are to be submitted (**with attached captions**) at the *beginning* of the class session in which they are due. Please see me **early** if you're having problems with an assignment.

Academic Integrity Policy – Students will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog (Page 7) and the Student Conduct Code. Students on both course examinations will be required to sign this statement: **"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."** All original photographic work produced for class assignments **must be your own. Students must be able to provide the instructor with a digital SD (or similar) card with all photos produced for each given assignment.** Do not delete these files until a grade has been assigned for that project.

Ethics – Be **ethical** and **responsible** journalists – we'll discuss what this entails in class. Please conduct yourself in a manner that is respectful to your subjects. **Please include a personal photo credit with EACH image submitted.**

Final Exam – 9:40-11:40 a.m. on Monday, December 11th per the CSU final exam schedule. Same format as the mid-term: short answer and essay. **No early or late final exams will be given – make your travel plans accordingly.**

Course Schedule *(may be revised with advance notice during the term at the discretion of the instructor)*

Wk	DATE	LECTURE	LAB	READ <i>IN ADVANCE</i>	DUE
1	T – 8/22	Course introduction	“Canvas” review		
	R – 8/24	Portraits	Open shade portraits	“Introduction” in text – pp. 1-5	Bring your camera to class for portraits
2	T – 8/29	Exposure Defined	Basic photo editing - cropping	“Defining Exposure” in text, pp. 6-9	Bring in your portrait for lab
	R – 8/31	Photographic Triangle & ISO	Basic photo editing - resizing	“Photographic triangle” in text, pp. 10-15	Post cropped portrait by 2 p.m.
3	T – 9/5	Photos from a voyage around the world			Shoot your decisive moment photo
	R – 9/7	The triangle and exposure	Edit decisive moment photos	Read pp. 16-18 on exposure and metering	Open #1 -- Decisive moment photo file due
4	T – 9/12	General news – White balance and metering	Critique decisive moment photos	White balance and metering -- pp. 19-29	Decisive moment print is due
	R – 9/14	General news – Covering fires and disasters	Shoot general news project	Online reading assignment	Submit name for photog. research project
5	T – 9/19	Aperture control for creative Depth of Field	Edit general news photos	Aperture and depth of field – text pp. 30--49	General News photos due
	R – 9/21	Creating photo presentations in PPT	Work on research PPT	Aperture options – part 2, pp. 50-61	General News prints due
6	T – 9/26	Creative use of shutter speed	Finish your research PPT and submit it	Shutter speed and motion, pp. 62-83	Photographer PPT due
	R – 9/28	Taking Time exposures -- + Photog. PPT pres. #1	Crop general news images	Time exposure tips, pp. 118-129 (read this!)	Photo story concept is due
7	T – 10/3	Feature photos and Reading the light +PPT #2	Edit your time exposures & submit	Read about quality of front light, pp. 86-97	Time Exposure (Open #2) photo is due
	R – 10/5	Metering tricky lighting + Photog. PPT pres. #3	Shoot feature images	Sidelight and backlight pp. 98-105	Time Exposure prints are due
8	T – 10/10	Review for the midterm exam +PPT #4	Edit feature photos in lab & submit	Metering, gray cards, and tips -- pp. 106-117	Feature photo files are due
	R – 10/12	Environmental Portraits	Mid-term exam	No reading for today	Feature prints are due
9	T – 10/17	Portraits –part 2, posed vs. candid +PPT #5	Edit portraits	Online reading assignment	Environmental portrait files are due
	R – 10/19	Midterm Recap +PPT #6	Review portraits	No reading for today	Portrait prints are due
10	T – 10/24	Shooting close-ups +PPT #7	Edit photo story images	Online reading assignment	Best first photo for Photo Story is due
	R – 10/26	Good to Great in 10 Steps +PPT #8	Edit photo story images	No reading for today	Prints of best first photo are due

Wk	DAY	LECTURE	LAB	READINGS	DUE
11	T – 10/31	Ethical issues +PPT #9	Edit close-up images	Creative use of filters and flash, pp. 146-157	Open #3 (close-ups) files are due
	R – 11/2	Photo Editing Ethics +PPT #10	Picture editing	No reading for today	Close-up prints are due
12	T – 11/7	Special techniques – +PPT #11	Edit Open #4 photos in lab	Special techniques, read pp. 130-139	Open #4 (any subject) file due
	R – 11/9	Flash photography +PPT #12	Visit to CSU's photo studio	Flash photography, read pp. 140-167	Open #4 prints are due
13	T – 11/14	The photo story – part 1 +PPT #13	Review all photo stories in text	Online reading assignment	Sports photo file due
	R – 11/16	Photo story – part 2 +PPT #14		Online reading assignment	Sports photo prints are due
	Fall Break	November 18-26	Have fun...	...work on your photo story...	
14	T – 11/28	Legal issues +PPT #15	Work on photo story	Online reading assignment	Best <u>single</u> image from photo story is due
	R – 11/30	Privacy, libel & copyright +PPT #16	Work on photo story	Online reading assignment	Print of best single image is due
15	T – 12/5	Photo career options +PPT #17	Portfolio images	No reading for today	Photo story <u>URL</u> must be posted by 5 p.m.
	R – 12/7	Review for the final +PPT #18	Portfolio PPT	Spot news image due (for extra credit)	Portfolios are due (with <u>2</u> prints from the photo story)
16	Monday Dec. 11th	Final Exam (covering second half of the term)	Bring a print of your best photo	9:40– 11:40 a.m. in Clark C-235	Portfolios returned

Assignment Details

General guidelines:

(1) Photographing people. The course is primarily focused on **news and documentary photography, which are about people**. Most photographs submitted for this class should be focused on human activity.

(2) Detailed captions are required for all submitted photos. They must include the full names of all individuals **who are identifiable in the photographs**. **This is a fundamental task for all photographers.**

(3) Move beyond snapshots. Photographs made for JTC 335 must be carefully considered works of photography or photojournalism. **Please do not submit snapshots** of your friends or family as class assignments.

Decisive Moment (Open #1). As defined by *Henri Cartier-Bresson*, this is "...the simultaneous recognition, in a fraction of a second, of the significance of an event as well as of a precise organization of forms which give that event its proper expression." The ability to capture decisive moments is important for all photographers. For this assignment please examine the work of *Cartier-Bresson* from a hardcopy source in the library or from one of several online resources. **Your assignment is to catch a decisive moment involving any subject.** Two online resources are:

<http://efotobooks.com/cartier-bresson/decisive-moment.html>

<http://www.magnumphotos.com> [click Photographers, then Cartier-Bresson]

General News. This can often be the most demanding photojournalistic assignment because many important news topics are not immediately visual. The general news assignment calls for informed interpretation on the photographer's part. **Select a topic that is in the news.** If you wish, select a specific story. Create a photojournalistic image that visually informs the reader on some important or relevant aspect of the story. This category also includes newsworthy public meetings, promotional and other staged events, or spot news (see below for the spots news extra credit option).

Feature. Also sometimes called "enterprise" photographs, these shots are the staple of many daily publications. Feature photographs may be on most any topic and may utilize any of the techniques discussed in the first weeks of the class. Animals, weather, children (get their parent's permission) -- just about anything goes, but keep in mind that **people like to see images of people.**

Sports. Good action shots are difficult to capture, often requiring a great many images for each "keeper." The best approach is to select an outdoor sport that you have played or are familiar with. **Keep in mind you need to shoot a sport that might appear in a daily newspaper or a weekly magazine** such as *Sports Illustrated*. CSU is an NCAA Division 1 university with many opportunities to catch good action photos from the spectator stands, **especially in the lower areas of the new football stadium in the fall.** Intramural athletics may also be a good source; your subjects do not need to be professional to provide opportunities to capture "peak action."

Environmental Portrait. The purpose of this assignment is to make an image of an individual that conveys a significant amount of information about some important or relevant aspect of the individual, **but the background environment is key here.** What do the location or props have to contribute to the image? These are a staple of magazine and organization publications **so be creative with these.**

Open Emphasis. The four defined assignments are specified above. The second four assignments are Open Emphasis, meaning that you can shoot these on any of the photographic topics you wish, however, they need to **meet the technical requirements** for that assignment (e.g. close-ups or time exposures).

Photo Essay. Many of the topics that photographers approach are more complex or nuanced for adequate capture in a single image. As we will see in our readings, it is possible to craft a story using images just as you might use words. To start this assignment, you should conduct general background research on the topic and sketch a series of potential images that you might imagine encountering. That is the point of departure, then let the story tell itself. **Effective photo editing is critical here.** The images with captions (and an introductory home page and bio page) will be posted on a free website that you construct using their built-in templates. Weebly.com or Wix.com are suggested options for these.

Spot News. This can be the easiest yet most elusive photojournalistic assignment. Spot news is, by definition, often dramatically photogenic yet unpredictable and largely uncontrollable. It can also present hazards to the photojournalist. For these reasons, **spot news is optional**, and is available as an **extra-credit option** (worth **up to** 15 additional points) if your timing allows you to encounter a spot news photo opportunity. **Carry a smart phone or a camera with you at all times.**