

**Syllabus for Senior Seminar: Photojournalism in the Digital Age
2012-13**

Instructor: G. Stinnett

MLWGS Credit: 1

**Room 127, 4th period, 354.6800, ex1270, available during planning 1st,2nd, and 6th
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Course Description: Students will learn about photojournalism through practice, interaction with contemporary photojournalists and the study of the history of photojournalism. Topics will include the different types of photojournalism including news, feature, illustration, environmental and extended portraiture, documentation, travel and war photography. The seminar will include lectures on digital camera operation, composition and design, Photoshop, and the ethics and effects of photojournalism. Example guest lecturers can include photographers who are working as photojournalists, curators, collectors, and editors for professional publications. Field trips will be frequent and will include trips to shoot, view production facilities and exhibitions, study collections and talk to working photojournalists.

Textbooks: PHOTOGRAPHY, Barbara London and John Upton, Seventh Edition; Adobe Photoshop CS3 Classroom in a Book; Things as they are: Photojournalism in Context since 1955.

Web Page: www.sgwlmotohp.weebly.com

Objectives/Goals:

1. Increase students' sophistication for making and viewing photojournalistic images
2. Learn to use a digital camera and photo editing software
3. Increase sensitivity to ethics of making visual images
4. Gain understanding of processes of having an image published
5. Develop creativity, critical thinking and problem solving skills
6. Produce a portfolio of photojournalistic images
7. Produce a digital documentation of their own experiences.
8. Research and write a paper on a topic of the student's choice.

Major Topics:

1. Operation of adjustable 35mm digital camera including use of shutter speed to control motion, aperture to control depth of field, file size, light meter to determine exposure and shooting raw. Composition and design will also be covered.
2. History of photojournalism and contemporary practice. Examples will include: news; feature; documentary; environmental portraiture; travel; photo illustration. Students will study how photojournalism has conveyed ideas and begin to present their own stories in photographs.
3. Using photoshop. This will include application of the program and a study of the ethical concerns surrounding manipulated imagery.

Assessment(s)/Evaluation(s): Assessment will be based primarily on shooting projects and presentations. A grade will also be given for participation in critiques and class discussions. Projects and presentations will be worth 80% and participation in discussions and critiques will be worth 20%. The second semester will conclude with a research paper and presentation in the senior showcase that will be worth 20% of the semester grade.

Classroom Expectations: Students are to come to class on time with materials and equipment needed for each day. They are expected to participate in class actively and with imagination and creativity. They should also feel free to ask questions. If they are absent for any reason, the student is responsible for obtaining notes on information that was covered during the time missed from another student. If a student leaves the classroom at anytime without the teacher, they must sign out in the notebook next to the door. They must sign in upon their return. Also, if a student leaves the classroom to work on a shooting assignment, they may not disrupt other teachers or classes and must stay on the grounds of the school.

Materials Needed: Each student will need to have a digital camera. A 35mm digital adjustable camera is ideal but not necessary. Phone cameras will not be allowed. Students will be required to take notes in class and will need either a notebook or laptop computer. A jump drive of at least 2 gigs will also be useful.

Dates: December 7, 2012- Fine Arts field trip to Washington, D.C. Other field trip dates to be announced. June 5, 2013 Senior Showcase day.

Projects: Following are examples of the projects that will be completed during the course: first nine weeks – camera use and composition examples, self documentation journal, what they were thinking project, select research paper topic; second nine weeks – photo shop use examples, photo illustration and fashion, travel photography assignment, outline research paper; service project photo essay, presentation on controversial photojournalism; fourth nine weeks – polish research paper and presentation for showcase.

“I have read and understand this syllabus for “Photojournalism in the Digital Age”

Student Pledge: _____

Parent Pledge: _____