

JOR 310: Photography
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Welcome to Introduction to Photography! In this class we will learn the basics of photography, which can be effectively translated to all aspects of photography. Lessons will focus on digital photography and using basic skills in exposure, composition, and color to apply to journalism.

Good photographers know that technique can only be improved through experience, so this semester will require students to go out into the world and take their own photographs. Be prepared to present your photographs to the class and hold an open discussion about the meanings behind your work.

Grading:

Attendance – 15%

Participation – 15%

Concept demonstration – 15%

Writing assignment – 10%

Final project – 45%

Attendance is mandatory! We will cover a lot of information in this class, most of which must be seen to be understood. If you miss a class, you may miss an important lesson that may negatively affect your skill set and the quality of your final project. Attending class also means showing up on time and being present for the whole class. If I feel you are repeatedly arriving to class late or are taking extended breaks from the lesson, this will negatively affect your grade. If you miss more than three (3) classes, you will receive an “X” for this class.

Participation will also be graded. There are many ethical questions that are raised within the subject of photography and it is an important aspect of the course to understand and discuss all sides of these debates. If you are absent from class, this will also affect your participation grade.

Concept demonstration refers to three short assignments where you will have to find two photographs (either in print or online, they do not have to be digital) that demonstrate the correct and incorrect usage of a concept that we go over in class. For example, after the lesson on aperture, you will be responsible for finding two pictures that demonstrate a good and bad use of aperture.

You will be responsible for completing a short writing assignment on photography or photojournalism. More details will be given on this later.

Your final project will be due during the last two weeks of class, April 21-22 and 28-29. Your assignment is to create your own photo essay of 7-12 photos that **tell a story**. The pictures must be cohesive with each other and take into consideration all of the technical aspects of photography that you learn during the semester (exposure, composition, etc). You will be responsible for writing captions to go along with your photos. During class, you will present your photo essay and hold a short discussion on the story you are telling through your photographs.

Week 1: January 13 & 14

Introductions, overview of class, questionnaire about prior experience.

Week 2: January 20 & 21

Equipment and camera types; what every photographer needs for every shooting situation.

Week 3: January 27 & 28

Exposure; ISO, aperture, shutter speed.

Week 4: February 3 & 4

Exposure, continued; histograms, measuring highlights. (concept demonstration for exposure due February 8)

Week 5: February 10 & 11

Composition; rule of thirds, the "golden spiral", horizontal/vertical orientation, leading lines, framing the subject. (concept demonstration for composition due February 15)

Week 6: February 17 & 18

Color; level of saturation, level of contrast, monochrome. (concept demonstration for color due February 22)

Week 7: February 24 & 25

Post-processing and storage options; different photo-editing software and methods for backing up and preserving your photographs.

Week 8: March 3 & 4

Photography for different applications; news, editorials, sports, events, etc.

Spring Break: March 10 & 11 (no class)

Week 9: March 17 & 18

Photojournalism, the art of capturing a story through pictures.

Week 10: March 24 & 25

More photojournalism, how to put together a photo essay.

Week 11: March 31 & April 1

Examining and critiquing various photo essays. Intro to ethical questions in photography.

Week 12: April 7 & April 8

More ethical debates dealing with staging a photograph, the accuracy of what's being portrayed, the bias of the photographer.

Week 13: April 14 & April 15

Legal matters and privacy. Is it ever wrong to take a picture of something/someone? Who owns the rights to a photograph?

Week 14: April 21 & April 22

Present and discuss final projects.

Week 15: April 28 & April 29

Present and discuss final projects.