ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

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<th>Division</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Digital Photography for Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and Year Submitted</td>
<td>Spring 2014</td>
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<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepared by</td>
<td>Susan Dawson-O’Brien</td>
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<td>Hours Per Week:</td>
<td>Class 2  Lab 2</td>
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Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)
The study and practice of news, sports, and feature photography; camera angles; cropping and scaling of photos; layout and cutline writing; and legal and ethical considerations. Prerequisite: C or better in MCOM 1203 or concurrent enrollment. Lab fee: $10.00. A student-provided digital 35mm camera is required.

Prerequisites
Prerequisite: C or better in MCOM 1203 or concurrent enrollment.

Text(s):
- Title: Photojournalism: The Professionals’ Approach
- Author: Kenneth Kobre
- Publisher: Focal Press
- Copyright Date: 2008
- ISBN #: 9780750685931

Supplemental Materials:
Required: The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law by the Associated Press (Basic Books) 2013

Required: Student-supplied digital camera (with operation manual), appropriate memory card, batteries & charger, and computer connection cord(s) or card reader.

Required: Portable media storage device (such as a USB flash drive or thumb drive) AND 1 CD-R or CD-RW, on which to save and submit the final portfolio.
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: This course introduces basic camera and photographic techniques to teach visual newsgathering. Students will practice creating newsworthy images and cutlines/captions that would be appropriate for publication in a variety of media.

Expected Outcomes: At the end of the semester, successful students will:
1. Be able to operate their digital camera and the tools associated with it;
2. Understand photographic composition and lighting;
3. Produce newsworthy, publishable photographs;
4. Write accurate, professional captions/cutlines and photo credits, then present them with photos in a digital slide show;
5. Comprehend basic ethical and legal principles related to photojournalism;
6. Meet deadlines;
7. Be able to analyze and discuss examples of professional photojournalism; and
8. Compile the best examples of their work into a digital photojournalism portfolio.

Methods of Instruction: Class periods will blend discussion, lecture, in-class assignments and audio-visual materials. Students will be required to spend a minimum of two hours outside the regular class periods in lab, during which they will complete their photographic assignments; these will be critiqued by the instructor and through peer feedback. Also, students will learn to write captions/cutlines following Associated Press style.

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):
Students will be assessed using homework, in-class assignments, quizzes, photographic assignments, and portfolios.

Grade scale: A’s are earned for exceptional work, above and beyond the call of duty. B’s are for above-exceptional work, C’s are for acceptable work, D’s are for below-exceptional work, and F’s are for unacceptable work. A’s are earned for publishable photos that present excellent, creative solutions to the assignment, communicate a message with news value, feature excellent composition and technical elements, and have error-free and stylistically appropriate captions. B’s are for photos that offer solutions to the assignment, communicate a message with news value, feature good composition and technical elements, and have relatively error-free and stylistically appropriate captions – publishable with minimal changes. C’s are for photos that meet or slightly depart from instructions but are good images; convey a message but it might be less than clear; have minimal news value; have some errors relating to composition and technical elements (such as a “grab shot”); and feature a caption that contains style, grammar, and/or informational errors – would require much work to publish. D work does not meet criteria, is not publishable, has little thought for composition and/or technical elements; has minor message or news value, and has a caption that contains many style and informational errors. F’s are for unacceptable, unpublishable photos that give no thought to assignment criteria, technical matters, compositional elements, and/or message; and have incomplete captions riddled with errors. Missing deadlines and being absent will also affect students’ grades.

Learning Objectives:
Unit 1: Introduction to Photojournalism
With their own cameras, students will begin to take photos of newsworthy subjects, considering elements such as focus, lighting, depth of field, and composition, as well as laws and ethics that guide photojournalists. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

Unit 2: Web Photography Critique
Students will follow an online digital media outlet for the semester, presenting weekly examples of good photojournalism, critiquing each image for the class. (Outcomes 2, 5, 6, 7)

Unit 3: Introduction to Caption/Cutline Writing
Students will write captions/cutlines for their own photographs; these will incorporate proper spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and Associated Press style. (Outcomes 4, 5, 6)

Unit 4: Photography Assignments
Students will take publishable photos in a variety of categories, utilizing techniques from Unit 1, and write captions/cutlines for each image, submitting them in digital slide presentation. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Unit 5: Famous Photojournalists
Students will write a research paper on a selected famous photojournalist; the paper must include a chronology of the photographer's journey to fame, critique of specific images, and examples of the photographer's work. (Outcomes 2, 5, 6, 7)

Unit 6: Portfolios
Students will create two portfolios of their work from this course, selecting their best images for inclusion and/or taking new images, rewriting captions/cutlines as necessary, and placing all work into a professional binder/portfolio case (for the tangible portfolio requirement) and into a digital slide presentation burned onto a CD-rom (for the digital portfolio requirement). (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)