

News Photography

COMM 1316 – Spring 2021

Instructor: Charles L. Ehrenfeld

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Class Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m., CM 156.

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9-9:30 a.m., 2:30-4 p.m.; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-9:30 a.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.- noon; or by appointment.

Course Description: This course covers problems and practices for newspapers, and includes instruction in digital camera and equipment operation, techniques and presentation skills.

Required Text:

London, B. & Stone, J. (2017). *A Short Course in Digital Photography*.

Required Materials:

- Digital camera with manually adjustable focus, aperture and shutter speed controls (one will be provided).
- Digital photographic paper for Inkjet printer, 8 x 10, minimum of 25 sheets, though probably more will be needed, or pre-cut 5 x 7 packages (Epson preferred for classroom photo printer, glossy finish).
- Storage device for photos (USB Flash Drive)
- Plastic protector sheets (optional)

Assignments:

1. **Five-minute papers:** Near the end of each class, you will have approximately five minutes to write down what you thought were a few of the main points made on the topic covered that day that you found interesting or other thoughts about the class.
2. **Photography Assignments:** Learning to take photographs is an important part of this course. You will have 7 graded photography assignments during the semester, each focusing on developing your skills and creativity.
3. **Exams:** You will have two exams (one written mid-term, one final) that cover the material presented in lectures and chapters covered in the texts. The final exam will consist of five of your best photos taken for previous assignments (but you *must re-print* photos being turned in).

Course Grades: The grading scale is:	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	60-69	D
	below 60	F

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Five-Minute Papers (3 pts. each)	48 pts.
Photography Assignments	350 pts.
Exams (2)	200 pts.
Participation/Initiative**	5 pts.
Quizzes (1 20 pts, 1 50 pts.)	*70 pts.
*At least 2 announced quizzes; maybe several unannounced	

**Good photojournalists need to show initiative in their professional lives. This portion of the grade is intended to reward students who exhibit such initiative in this course. The criteria include, but are not limited to: attending class; being on time for class; participating in a thoughtful manner in class discussions; turning in assignments on time (do not request deadline extensions); taking responsibility for your actions; and not whining.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Distinguish the parts and functions of a digital SLR camera.
- Apply knowledge of camera operations to compose and capture digital photographs.
- Apply knowledge of digital imaging and image manipulation utilizing Photoshop software.
- Apply knowledge of Photoshop software to color correct photos.
- Identify flaws and make improvements to photographs produced.
- Differentiate between aperture and shutter speed and recognize how they work together to produce appealing images.
- Develop an understanding of the types of assignments given to a newspaper photographer or photojournalist.
- Consider the ethical and legal implications for newspaper photographers and photojournalists.

Absence Policy: Because class participation is essential, missing any more than *three* classes (unexcused absences) will result in your *final* grade being lowered by a full letter grade. You *may* be *dropped* from the course after the fourth absence (at the discretion of the instructor).

Deadlines: ALL deadlines are absolute. You need to get used to deadlines that exist in the off-campus world. Therefore, all assignments will be due at the beginning of each class, unless notified otherwise by the instructor, and any late assignments will be penalized harshly.

Excuses: Don't bother to try any. I've heard most of them and have used some of them myself. Only deaths of immediate family members (parents, grand parents, siblings – ONLY), or your own, may be considered for an excused absence. Of course, you will need to provide proof (such as the obituary notice). Student athletes, or those participating in other college-sponsored activities that require an absence, will be excused, with prior notice to me and appropriate documentation.

Please Sanitize: You're encouraged to sanitize your desk and work space prior to leaving class. If using a computer, sanitize BEFORE and AFTER use.

Mask Policy: Masks are required to be worn in all college classrooms and hallways. *It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.*

ADA Statement: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office), (806) 716-2577, or Reese Center (Building 8), (806) 716-4675.

Nondiscrimination Policy: South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at (806) 716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Diversity Statement: In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Academic Honesty and Professional Conduct Policy: The same standards and ethics will apply to students enrolled in this course as apply to news reporters and other media professionals. Violations of these standards will result in a failing grade for the assignment and immediate dismissal from the course will be considered. These standards include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You may not take material verbatim from other sources such as previously published photographs, photos taken by other students, the Internet, etc... To do so without permission is to plagiarize.
2. Ethical decision-making and upholding standards of decency are important. While nudity may be considered an art form, photographs of questionable taste will not be accepted.
3. The classroom is not a play room. Professional conduct is expected, and food and drink should be kept far away from cameras and computers.

Civility Code: As future journalism professionals, you are to communicate with each other in a professional and civil manner. We all may feel passionately about certain issues; however, passion is no substitute for a solid grasp of the facts and sound, logical reasoning. Disparaging comments about gender, ethnicity, religion, etc... will not be tolerated. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves.

Disruptive behaviors such as cell phones ringing, leaving and returning to class while in session, arriving late to class, talking with others during lectures/discussions, checking your e-mail or Facebook, sending/receiving text messages, eating or drinking in class, etc... will result in a substantial reduction in the participation portion of one's grade and a request that such students leave the class. Cell phones must remain turned off and out of sight during this class, or be put on vibrate. They may only be activated in individual extenuating circumstances after consulting with the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

- 1). When discussing the history of photography, the student should be able to:
 - 1.1 Explain how the early ideas for photography came about.
 - 1.2 Name the earliest form of camera.
 - 1.3 Identify the key individuals who advanced the development of photography.

- 1.4 Identify the significant developments in the history of photography.
- 2). When discussing the fundamental concepts of digital photography, the student should be able to:
 - 2.1 Explain the five basic stages of image production.
 - 2.2 Define pixel and explain its function.
 - 2.3 Define resolution and explain its significance for digital photography.
 - 2.4 Define pixelation.
 - 2.5 Explain factors that determine photo quality.
- 3). When discussing the fundamental concepts of digital imaging, the student should be able to:
 - 3.1 Explain how images are stored inside the camera.
 - 3.2 Recognize the factors that determine the number of images that can be stored.
 - 3.3 Explain the process of compression and its function.
 - 3.4 Differentiate between the types of file formats.
- 4). When discussing the parts and features of a digital SLR camera, the student should be able to:
 - 4.1 Differentiate between the three types of camera viewing systems.
 - 4.2 Explain the features common to all film and digital cameras.
 - 4.3 Identify parts found inside and on the body of the camera.
 - 4.4 Identify the features of the basic zones on the mode dial.
 - 4.5 Identify the features of the creative zones on the mode dial.
- 5). When discussing photojournalism, the student should be able to:
 - 5.1 Identify the two mediums that comprise photojournalism.
 - 5.2 Explain how photojournalism differs from other photography.
 - 5.3 Recognize early pioneers of photojournalism.
 - 5.4 Consider the growth of photojournalism and how it developed into a profession.
 - 5.5 Consider the power of classic or historic photos of photojournalism.
- 6). When discussing techniques for covering an assignment for a newspaper, magazine or other medium, the student should be able to:
 - 6.1 Recognize the need to know the local community and region where employed.
 - 6.2 Identify the three basic shots of photojournalism.
 - 6.3 Give examples of cliché shots to avoid.
 - 6.4 Identify the important elements of a photo caption.
- 7). When discussing the significance of aperture, shutter speed and depth of field, the student should be able to:
 - 7.1 Identify the concepts of shutter speed and explain its relationship to exposure.
 - 7.2 Explain how aperture and shutter speed work together to control exposure.
 - 7.3 Distinguish between the three factors that control depth of field.
 - 7.4 Define depth of field.
 - 7.5 Explain the concept of bracketing.

- 8). When discussing techniques for color correction, the student should be able to:
 - 8.1 Identify contrast and apply techniques using Photoshop software to adjust the contrast of a photo.
 - 8.2 Apply the Photoshop features of Levels and Curves to adjust the contrast of a photo.
 - 8.3 Evaluate the color balance and color saturation of a photo.
 - 8.4 Differentiate between hue and saturation.
 - 8.5 Apply the Photoshop feature Variations as a color balance technique.
 - 8.6 Apply the Photoshop feature of Unsharp Masking to sharpen the photo.

- 9). When discussing the importance of light and its relationship to photography, the student should be able to:
 - 9.1 Recognize the primary function of light.
 - 9.2 Distinguish between the three important characteristics of light.
 - 9.3 Identify the five different types of lighting.
 - 9.4 Explain the way to determine the direction of light.
 - 9.5 Differentiate between available and artificial light.

- 10). When discussing composition, the student should be able to:
 - 10.1 Define what is meant by composition.
 - 10.2 Identify the four basic elements of composition.
 - 10.3 Describe the nine compositional devices to make photos more interesting.
 - 10.4 Explain the Rule of Thirds.
 - 10.5 Identify the more common composition errors and explain how to avoid them.

- 11). When discussing how to compose environmental portraits, the student should be able to:
 - 11.1 Consider what to look for in choosing a subject.
 - 11.2 Consider the background and positioning of the subject.
 - 11.3 Recognize the importance of lighting, whether indoors or outdoors.

- 12). When discussing flash photography, the student should be able to:
 - 12.1 Explain the advantages of using a flash.
 - 12.2 Describe how a flash contributes to exposure.
 - 12.3 Summarize the Inverse Square Law.
 - 12.4 Define bouncing and explain the technique.
 - 12.5 Identify common flash problems and explain how to avoid them.

- 13). When discussing motion or action photography, the student should be able to:
 - 13.1 Recognize how the direction a subject is moving relates to the sharpness of the photo.
 - 13.2 Explain factors that affect how much an image will be blurred.
 - 13.3 Recognize how aperture and shutter speed work together to freeze motion.
 - 13.4 Identify ways to prevent camera movement.
 - 13.5 Define panning and explain how to apply the technique.

14). When discussing photo ethics and legal implications for news photographers and photojournalists, the student should be able to:

- 14.1 Consider the need for ethics in specific situations facing photographers.
- 14.2 Explain why cropping and digital manipulation can be considered unethical.
- 14.3 Recognize copyright law as it pertains to news photographers.
- 14.4 Differentiate between situations when photographers have access and what is considered trespassing or intrusion.
- 14.5 Identify the four parts of invasion of privacy.
- 14.6 Explain the two parts of defamation.

Tentative Course Schedule
(subject to change at the discretion of instructor)

Jan. 19	Introduction to the course/Discussion of Syllabus
Jan. 21	Lecture: A Little History
Jan. 26	Lecture: Digital Photography (Read: Chapter 1)
Jan. 28	Lecture: Editing the Digital Image
Feb. 2	Lecture: Parts of the Camera/Types of Cameras (Read: Chapter 3)
Feb. 4	Lab Day: Beginning Adobe Photoshop CS
Feb. 9	Lecture: Cloning, Healing, Patching (Read: Chapter 3, 58-60) (*Quiz #1, 20 pts.)
Feb. 11	Lecture: What is Photojournalism? (*Digital Imaging Assignment Due!)
Feb. 16	Lecture: Covering the News
Feb. 18	Lecture: Aperture/Shutter Speed/Depth of Field
Feb. 23	Lecture: All About Color (Read: Chapter 3)
Feb. 25	Color Correction Techniques/Lab Day (*Grayscale Assignment Due)
March 2	Lecture: Qualities of Light

March 4 Lab Day

March 9 Exam Review/Lab Day

March 11 ***Mid-Term Exam**
(*Feature Assignment Due)

March 15 – March 19 **Spring Break!**

March 23 Lecture: Photo Composition

March 25 Lab Day

March 30 Lecture: Shooting People

April 1 Lab Day
(*Weather Assignment Due)

April 6 Lecture: Using a Flash

April 8 Lab Day

April 13 Lecture: Motion Photography

April 15 Lab Day
(*Environmental Portrait Assignment Due)

April 20 Lecture: Photo Ethics & the Law

April 22 Lecture: More Photo Ethics

April 27 Lab Day
(*Event Assignment Due)

April 29 Quiz Review/Lab Day

May 4 Wrap-up/Lab Day
(*Quiz #2, 50 pts.)

May 6 Wrap-up/Lab Day
(Photo Series Assignment Due)

May 13 **Final Exam – 8 a.m.**