Syllabus

Course Name: Photography  
Course Number: COMM 1316  
Semester & Year: Spring 2015

Instructor Information

Name: Laronda M. Bailey
Office: AIKIN 165
Telephone: 903-823-3368 (office)
E-mail: laronda.bailey@texarkanacollege.edu

(When sending an email, please be sure to include your first and last name, as well as your class and section number in the heading.)

Office Hours: Monday, 7:30-8 a.m., 2-3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 7:30-8 a.m., 2-3:30 p.m.; Thursday, 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Friday, 7:30-9:30 (Please call or email for an appointment.)

Textbook: No textbook required

Material: A digital camera (Recommended specs: Audio/video input; high resolution; under $300; Nikon or Canon)

Course Description: The course is an introduction to photojournalism, which includes preparation of a portfolio and learning specialized processing techniques for high-speed work.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, the student should demonstrate a mastery of the following learning outcomes:

1) Students will learn how to take pictures for various news media formats including: spot news, general news, features, sports feature, sports action, photo essays and illustrations.
2) Student will know how to identify a “good” photo and the elements that make a good photo.
3) Possess the ability to use a digital camera and accessories to expose and create quality photographic prints.
4) Possess the ability to prepare effective, descriptive, concise photo cutlines that adhere to AP style.
5) Possess an understanding of basic photo editing strategies.
6) Demonstrate a comprehension of basic photojournalism principles.
7) Develop a general knowledge of the history of photojournalism and its role in society.
8) Develop an understanding of the legal and ethical issues photojournalists often face.
9) Gain confidence in your ability to take photographs in public situations.

Student Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments and Assessments</th>
<th>Percentage of overall grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photography Class Assignments (5)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography Newspaper Assignments (Assignment count will depend on stories for newspaper)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily/Class Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grading Scale:</td>
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<td>----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>Score Range</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59-below</td>
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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**I. Overview of Photojournalism**

**Week 1**
Introduction to course

**Week 2**
Introduction to photojournalism (Handout 1)
- Will address the question “What is photojournalism?”
- Distinguishing photojournalism from photography
- Elements of photojournalism: objectivity, fairness, professionalism
- Rights and responsibilities of photojournalists

**Week 3**
History of photojournalism (Youtube video: History of photojournalism)
Will review historical origins of photojournalism, from hand sketches to box cameras used in situations of conflict such as the Civil War era

**Week 4**
Ethics and legal issues in photojournalism (Handout 2)
- Will review ethics in journalism and ethical dilemmas for photojournalists
- Ethical case studies in photojournalism
- Issues and problems in photojournalism
- Will review mass communication law as it applies to images and photojournalism
- Legal case studies in photojournalism

**Week 5 (Handout 3)**
Identifying and selecting events and scenes for photojournalism coverage
- Using journalistic newsworthiness as criterion for identifying events for photojournalism
- Using human interest as criterion for identifying events for photojournalism
- Using artistic, aesthetic, and cultural factors as criteria for identifying events for photojournalism

**Week 6 (Handout 4)**
Introduction to Flickr. Flickr is a free on-line website and facility for editing and publishing photos
and videos. Students will submit their assignments to me via email, as well as upload on Flickr.

**Introduction to digital cameras:** Basic elements of digital photography

**Week 7**
**Camera operation and parts of camera** Lessons on camera operation: How to hold camera, how to reduce camera shake, how to hold a camera, shutter release technique

- Lessons on parts of the camera: Digital camera modes, battery life

**Week 8: Midterm Exam**
**What is shutter speed? How does it work? (Video/Handout)**

**Week 9**
**Lighting/Flash (Video/Handout)**
How does lighting and flash affect a photo?
Lesson on using depth of field, shooting with in-camera flash
How to take sharp photos? How to get shallow DOF?

**Week 10**
**Writing captions (Handout 5)**
Rules for writing captions and how to write a caption

**Week 11**
**Online portfolios**
Introduction to online portfolios. There are several free applications that will help you create an online photography portfolio.

**Week 12**
**Introduction to Photoshop**
A brief demonstration of Photoshop and how to use it with some photos in newspapers and magazines.

**Week 13**
**Professional Photographers**
Several professional photographers will visit our classroom for an informative session.

**Week 14**
**Photo exhibit**
Submit photojournalism portfolio

**Week 15**
**Review for final**

**Week 16: Final Exam**
**Final Exam**
NOTE: This class schedule is subject to change.

II. Photojournalism portfolio (These photos will be selected from the Photo Assignments.)

III. Photo Assignments/Photo Exhibit (These pictures will be used in your exhibit at the end of the semester. All pictures should have a Texarkana College angle and include a well-written cutline.)

Assignment 1 (General News: Handout 1) Due TBA
Choose a newsworthy event to cover: a speech, a press conference, a meeting, a protest, a concert, bad weather, an accident, etc. Shoot at least ten pictures, trying to emphasize unusual angles, getting in close, interesting lighting, etc. Photos must contain people. At least 10 photos.

Assignment 2 (Features: Handout 2) Due TBA
Feature photos can be standalone or go with stories. They can be “wild art” – images found by the hard work of the photographer or assigned features from events happening in the community. For this assignment, the student should take at least 10 feature photos ranging from the beauty of an area, a quiet moment, kids, animals, human interest, etc.

Assignment 3 (Portraits: Handout 3) Due TBA
Student will take both posed and candid portraits of a subject. The posed portrait should reveal why the person is in the news or something about his/her personality. Your photos should be natural-looking and result in casual, relaxed portraits. Also, use light as a storytelling element and avoid busy backgrounds. You may use props to help tell the story. At least 10 portraits.

• Shoot pictures of people doing things on campus, preferably outside, but in well-lit buildings (window light recommended) if it’s too cold. Take candid (unposed) pictures of people. Focus is on action and movement. Five pictures

Assignment 4 (Sports: Handout 4) Due TBA
Sports. Choose any sport you like and shoot pictures of dynamic action shots emphasizing the excitement of the sport. I am aware that Texarkana College does not have an athletics program. However, there are several action shots you can get of people in the Pinkerton Fitness Center, as well as the swimming pool area. At least 10 shots.

Assignment 5 (Photo story: Handout 5) Due TBA
Student will tell a story with pictures. The story may be built in a matter of minutes, or it could be a story that unfolds over the course of the semester. Your picture story must have a theme and a newspeg or hook.

IV. Newspaper Production
Student will help with the production of “The TC News.” In particular, student will assist with photo editing of all photos, layout/design, and take photos to accompany other students’ assignments.

V. Test
Students will be tested over material covered in class.