

Department: Journalism-Photography **Revision Date:** Spring 2009

San Antonio College 1300 San Pedro San Antonio, TX 78212-4299

Course Number and Title: COMM 1316, News Photography 1

Credit Hours: 3-2-3

Instructor: Dr. Yuk Kwong Edmund Lo

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I. Catalog Description: COMM 1316, News Photography 1 (3-2-3)

This course teaches the basics of digital news photography. Other than learning how to operate digital camera and processing digital photos, this course will also present the problems and practices of photography for newspapers and magazines. Students will be introduced to the important role of photojournalism in the society and learn how to produce different categories of photojournalism that apply to news reporting through reading, class discussing, and practicing.

II. Pre-requisites, co-requisites and other requirements:

None.

III. Text: 1. Required: National Geographic Photography Field Guide: Secrets to Making Great Pictures, 2nd Ed., by Peter Burian and Bob Caputo, National Geographic, 2003.

2. Recommended: Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach, by Kenneth Kobre, 6th Ed., Focal Press, 2008.

IV. Instruction will consist of: Much of the learning in this course depends on practice photo taking, reading and critiquing course materials. We will survey the course information through class discussions and lab experiences. Learning to meet deadlines and developing the ability to manage time also are part of the course.

V. Course Content: This course emphasizes journalistic communication through photographs. Students will be trained to learn the basics of digital photography and at the same time be introduced to the world of photojournalism by reviewing photographs taken from professional photojournalists locally and from all over the world. Students will also learn the principles and techniques of producing news photographs by working for the college newspaper and magazine as staff photographers. Students will be trained to work under deadline pressure in a variety of basic photojournalistic situations. After taking this course, students should be able to build a portfolio and have a basic ability to critique and produce news photography in a professional manner. Methods of teaching include reading discussion, video and slide presentation, demonstration, news photo critique and guest lectures.

VI. Learning Outcomes and Performance Objectives with their methods of measurement as used to determine the students' mastery of those outcomes.

Learning Outcome 1: Students will master the basic skill of digital photography and processing of digital photos in computer.

Performance Objectives/Method(s) of measurement for each objective

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to operate a digital camera and produce photos that communicate their intended messages accurately and effectively by practicing through frequent photo assignments and reviews.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to process digital photos in a computer by turning in photo assignments and presenting those assignments for discussions and critiques in class.

Learning Outcome 2: Students will demonstrate understanding of the development of photojournalism and its impact on society.

Performance Objectives/Method(s) of measurement for each objective

1. Students will demonstrate basic understanding of concepts, skills and history of photographic communication by researching and presenting important photographers in photojournalism history.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of how to communicate with photography by analyzing and discussing works from current and historical photojournalists.

Learning Outcome 3:

The student will develop the conceptual and technical skills of those who pursue a professional career in photojournalism.

Performance Objectives/Method(s) of measurement for each objective

- 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of combining words and images by producing story-telling news photos for the college newspaper.
- 2: The student will demonstrate the ability to take photos in various categories of photojournalism by successfully completing exercises and college newspaper assignments
- 3: The student will demonstrate the ability to interact with subjects and play the responsible role as photojournalists by completing exercises and photo assignments for the college newspaper, writing self-critiques, and writing reflection reports on photojournalism issues such as ethics and law.

VII. Course requirements and grade computation:

Course objectives:

News Photography emphasizes communication through photographs. This course presents the practices and problems of photography for news publications. We will focus on taking, editing and processing still photographs for media use. Students will cover campus and off-campus events for the college newspaper, The Ranger. We have entered the digital age; all work will be shot and produced digitally. Students are required to own a basic digital camera (preferably Single Lens Reflex – SLR) to take this class. However, in the beginning of the semester, a very limited number of digital cameras can be checked out to students on an hourly, temporary basis. The department will provide students with more advanced photo equipment for special reporting occasions.

Tests and Grading:

Quizzes	5%	Portfolio	5%
Reading Quizzes	5%	Attendance & class participation	5%
Assignments	35%	Ranger photo assignments	35%
Mid-term Exam.	5%		
Final Exam.	5%	Bonus	5%

Description on grading Ranger photo assignments:

You will need to have 7 photos published on the Ranger newspaper before the last day of its publication in this semester. Each assignment will be graded on your performance and evenly distributed to the 35% of your final grade.

Your Ranger assignments will be evaluated and graded as follows:

Publishable with good quality	90 or above
Publishable with revision	80-89
Substantial revision needed	70-79
Marginal quality	60-69
Unacceptable	59 or below

Total grade for the course: A = 90-100, B = 80-89.9, C = 70-79.9, D = 60-69.9, F = 59.9 or below

A. College Requirements:

A written, comprehensive final examination, not to exceed three hours in length, shall be given at the end of each semester for each course at the regularly scheduled time. Any exceptions to these requirements must be approved by the appropriate dean. Other examinations are given at the discretion of the instructor.

A student who must be absent from a final examination should petition that instructor for permission to postpone the examination. A student absent without permission from a final examination is graded "F." Postponed examinations result in a grade of "I." The final exam must be taken within 120 calendar days from the end of the semester or the grade automatically becomes an "F." (San Antonio College Bulletin, faculty Handbook - January 1995)

B. Departmental Requirement: A student wishing to withdraw from this class during the semester must process a formal withdrawal through the Office of Admissions and Records. Failure to withdraw formally will result in the

assignment of a failing grade (F) for the course. You may drop by going to the Office of Admissions and Records, or you may send me an e-mail requesting that I drop you from the class. If you do the latter, please be sure to type your full name at the bottom of your request. You also may drop by Room 204-a of Loftin Student Center to pick up a drop slip.

The college bulletin allows absences for the equivalent of two weeks of class, but you will be dropped after that number. After the drop date, each absence over six will take three (3) points off your final grade.

C. Instructor Requirements:

Students should prepare to learn to use digital camera and digital photo processing equipments. Student should also prepare to learn basic interview and information-gathering techniques as well as communicate with people as a journalist. Students should also pay extra attention to what a deadline means to a news publication.

VIII. College Policies:

A. San Antonio College does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability with respect to access, employment programs or services.

B. Students are urged not to bring children to either a class or a lab. Minors under the age of twelve (12) must not be left unattended on campus. College Academic Council - April, 1998

C. ADA Statement: "As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if accommodation is needed contact the Office of Disability Support Services, CAC 124C, Phone: (210) 733-2347.

D. A Rapid Response Team exists for the purpose of responding to emergencies. If you have a disability that will require assistance in the event of a building evacuation, notify Disability Support Services, Chance Academic Center 124C, Phone: (210) 733-2347.

E. Academic Dishonesty: Students may be subject to disciplinary proceedings resulting in an academic penalty or disciplinary penalty for academic dishonesty. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion. For additional information refer to the "Student Code of Conduct" in the San Antonio College Bulletin.

F. Students are required to silence all electronic devices (e.g., pagers, cellular phones, etc.) when in classrooms, laboratories and the library. College Academic Council, 01/ 2000.

G. San Antonio College Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual attendance at all classes and laboratories, day and/or evening, is required. A student absent for any reason is responsible for all work missed. Both tardiness and early departure from class are forms of absenteeism. The instructor establishes the policy with regard to each. Absences of each student are recorded without exception. The counting of absences begins on the first day of class. A student absent the equivalent of two weeks of instruction in a 16-week semester may be dropped by the instructor. If a student is dropped from a class for excessive absences, the instructor will record a grade of "W" (withdraw). It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the withdrawals have been submitted.

H. San Antonio College is a smoke free campus.

I. ACCD DPS Emergency Phone Numbers:

ACCD DPS Emergency Phone (210) 222-0911

ACCD DPS General Phone (210) 208-8099

ACCD DPS Weather Phone (210) 208-8189 (For information on college closures)

J. Students must also abide by the policies, procedures, and rules set forth in the "Student Code of Conduct" and all other policies set forth in the San Antonio College Bulletin.