

Photo 1500– Photojournalism – Spring, 2008 Semester
Course Description & Syllabus – Terry Vitacco, Instructor
Office: Art Center 272 – Telephone: (630) 942-2329

E-mail: vitacco@cdnet.cod.edu

Text: “Photojournalism, The Professional’s Approach”, 5th edition, by Ken Kobre

Prerequisites: Photo 1200 & Photo 1201 or concurrent enrollment in them.

Catalog Description: Photo Technology 1500 – (3 Semester Credit hours.) The application of cameras, lenses and films in the production of newsworthy photographs suitable for publication in newspapers, magazines, and other visual communications media.

This course is designed to teach you the fundamentals of photojournalism. You will become a “reporter with a camera”. This means your pictures must tell stories. You must think fast on your feet, previsualize, and be able to quickly capture decisive moments.

You will learn to produce high-quality photographs that attract attention to a news story. Your images will make people want to know more about the issues. Working hand-in-hand with your captions, your photos will pull readers in and arouse their interest in the event you witnessed first-hand. You will learn to visually interpret events to the general population and illustrate complex issues.

To reach these goals, we will study the major historical events in photojournalism, identify legal and ethical issues and review their relevance to today’s photojournalists. We will learn the categories of Photojournalism and illustrate a variety of stories over the semester. We will write captions, edit and lay out photo pages so they are suitable for newspaper or magazine publication. We will also produce traditional and Sound Slides photo essays in conjunction with Easter Seals for an exhibition and other corporate, editorial and educational uses.

Your responsibility as a photojournalist is to report the truth with your camera as accurately and ethically as possible. In this class we will cover a variety of photojournalistic subjects; general news, sports, features, speakers, environmental portraits, editorial illustrations, caption writing and photo essays. In Photojournalism you will utilize what you have learned in every other photo course you have taken – composition, lighting, camera technique, color correction, etc., and combine these skills with basic photojournalistic concepts so your pictures communicate meaning to people who were not there to witness the event.

There is always photojournalistic subject matter. As long as there is news, there are new pictures to be shot. **There are no excuses in Photojournalism – you must come back with a picture no matter what the conditions.** Photojournalism will put you to the test both photographically and personally. It is a challenging and demanding profession. Whether or not you choose to pursue photojournalism as your career, the skills you learn here will benefit you in the future. No matter what type of photography career you choose – corporate, wedding, portrait, industrial, commercial or fine art– your work will be positively influenced by your photojournalistic skills and knowledge.

GRADING – YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED BY:

Weekly class assignments	55 %
Final Project	20 %
Final Examination	10 %
<u>Class Attendance/Participation</u>	<u>15 %</u>
TOTAL	100 %

Assignments will be due at the beginning of the Friday class, unless specified otherwise on the syllabus. Because of the nature of photojournalism, time is of the essence in getting homework in. One of the goals of this class is to make the student understand the importance of DEADLINES.

Late Homework = an “F” grade unless I am notified in ADVANCE by telephone or e-mail. If you have an emergency, deadlines may be adjusted.

Extra credit may be earned if students would like to improve their grades. A great way to earn extra credit is to work for the **College of DuPage Courier student newspaper** or freelance for another local paper. **Hand in tear sheets with your assignment and mark them “for extra credit.”**

REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS: Capture at least 36 digital exposures for each assignment.

Prior to 9 a.m. Friday morning, you will drop your image folder in the Photojournalism Drop Box on the Server. (Photo 1500 – Password = 1500s)

DO NOT PLAN TO PRINT YOUR HOMEWORK ON FRIDAY MORNING BEFORE CLASS. POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR MISSING THE LECTURE/CRITIQUE TO PRINT YOUR HOMEWORK THAT SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE 9A.M. FRIDAY.

ALSO - BE AWARE OF YOUR LAB’S SERVICE TURNAROUND TIME. THE LAB BEING LATE WITH YOUR PRINTS IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE FOR LATE HOMEWORK. MAKE SURE THERE IS ENOUGH TIME FOR THE LAB TO PRINT YOUR PHOTOS, AND FOR YOU TO TYPE YOUR CAPTIONS BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS FRIDAY MORNING. LATE HOMEWORK = AN “F” GRADE

Your digital homework folder should be set up as follows: for example, if you are turning in your Sports Feature assignment you will:

- **Make a Homework Folder named “Your Last Name” Sports Feature.**
- Drag all your images into this folder. Use **File>Automate>Scripts>Image Processor** to reduce all your images to (Quality 5) Jpegs for class Outtakes critique.
- **IMPORTANT – DO NOT DELETE ANY IMAGES, AS WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE OUTTAKES DURING OUR CRITIQUES.**
- Using your **Jpeg image file**, go to **File>Automate>Contact Sheet** and make contact sheets of all your images.
- Create a new folder within the homework folder for your **2 final images** you are turning in for your grade labeled **SF#1 and SF #2.**
- (They should be approx. **4 x 6” @ 300 ppi.**) Name it **“Grade Me”.**
- **In addition to your digital homework folder**, I will also be collecting **2 final prints with TYPED CAPTIONS** each week in your paper folder. They may be

3 x 5” or 4 x 6” color prints made from a professional lab, printed in our lab or at your home. **Please “tone” or color correct each image before it is printed, as part of your grade will be on tonal quality.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE get into the habit of BACKING UP YOUR WORK ON A CD EVERY WEEK. IT WILL SAVE YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG WITH THE SERVER.

SUPPLIES – Please purchase a good-size spiral **Reporter’s Notebook** that will fit in your camera bag, a **Sharpie pen** (for writing in any weather conditions), a paper or plastic **Folder** for turning in weekly assignments, a **Flash Drive, 10 to 15 CD’s** for archiving your work.

EQUIPMENT – **Digital camera, camera manual and CF cards.** Please bring your **flash** if you have one, or you can borrow a Vivitar flash from the Lab Manager’s desk for 24-hour checkout. **IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT USE A VIVITAR FLASH ON A DIGITAL CAMERA WITHOUT A SAFE SYNC OR YOU WILL DAMAGE YOUR CAMERA!**

IMPORTANT – **ALL PHOTOJOURNALISTS TODAY USE DIGITAL CAMERAS.** If you do not own a **digital camera**, you may **check one out** from the Lab Manager’s desk for **24 hours** at a time, but **you need to provide a CF card** for your image captures.

.

SYLLABUS – SPRING SEMESTER, 2008

Week One- Friday, January 18 – Introduction to Photojournalism and class procedures. Discuss good visual communication, categories of news photography, caption writing, photojournalistic history and ethics. Discuss examples from “Capture the Moment, Pulitzer Prize Photos” book.

Go to **the Library.** and research an historical event covered by a photojournalist.

Homework:

- **Review Text Chapter 13 “The Law”, Chapter 14 “Ethics” & Chapter 15 “History”.**
- **Type a two- page paper** describing the **legal and ethical issues** that the photographer faced. **Bring a copy of the photo** you wrote about to class for discussion.
- Go through a newspaper or newsmagazine and **cut out one example of each category of photojournalism with its caption and label each one appropriately.**
- **Put all of this in your paper folder. Due: Friday, Jan. 25.**

Week Two – Friday, January 25 – Review class procedures, caption writing and Drop Box. Review categories of photojournalism. Critique 1st news photos. Discuss research papers, historical and present-day legal and ethical issues. Review color correction.

Homework:

- Clip out **five good examples of sports photojournalism** and their captions from newspapers or newsmagazines. Type a short explanation for each photo explaining why it communicates visually to readers. **Read Sports Photography Text Pages 116 to 135.**
- **Shoot – Free Choice PJ Category. Choose one category of news photography we covered today and find an example of it in a newspaper or newsmagazine. Clip out the photo with the caption and emulate that category of photography with 36 color exposures. Choose your two best photos and write complete captions for them. Please review Homework Requirements. Due Friday, February 1.**

Week Three – Friday, February 1 – Critique news category shots. Discuss Sports Features and Page Layout.

Homework:

- Go to **College of DuPage Chaparrals Men’s Basketball Practice at 1:15 in P. E. Building** and shoot sports action and features. Shoot **at least 80 exposures at 1600 or 3200 ASA.**
- Make sure to get **ID’s of Players and Coaches. Get scores** if there are any scrimmage games.
- **Choose best two sports shots and write complete captions for Individual Grade. Save and bring all shots for Group Picture Page Lab next Friday.**
- **Read Text Pages 190 to 223 on Picture Editing.**
- **Due: Friday, February 8.**

Week Four – Friday, February 8 -Critique sports action and feature shots. Groups will work on Sports Feature Layout assignment in class. Introduce Editorial Illustration concepts.

Homework:

- Groups will edit images together to create a Sports Illustrated cover and inside spread with captions, headlines, photo credits and a one-paragraph story to illustrate COD Men’s Basketball Practice. **Due: Friday, February 15.**
- **Review Text Pages 172 to 190 on Editorial Illustrations.**
-
- **Review General News articles for next week’s lab. Due: Friday, Feb. 15.**

Week Five – Friday, Feb. 15 - Introduce **General News Stories and Editorial Illustrations**. Groups will work together in lab to illustrate two distinct editorial illustrations in studio, on location, or both.

Homework:

- **Illustrate General News Stories in class** by capturing documentary shots or by using props and creating still-life images. You may use digital cameras, scanners and Photoshop in class.
- **Review Editorial Illustration Text Pages 172 to 190.** (See next page.)
- **Bring your flash to class or arrange to check one out at Lab Manager's desk.** You may use film cameras and COD Vivitar flashes to learn bounce flash technique if you don't own enough equipment.)
- **Read Text Pages 256 to 277 on Strobe.**
- **Due: Friday, February 22.**

Week Six – Friday, February 22 – Critique editorial illustrations. Introduce **Speaker photography and Bounce Flash**. **Review Text Pages 256 to 277 on Strobe.**

Homework:

- Using **bounce flash**, photograph today's speakers three ways: with **overall, medium and close-up shots** and **write caption information**.
- **Due Friday, Feb. 29.**

Week Seven – Friday, Feb. 29 – Critique speaker shots. Intro to **General News documentary photography**.

Homework:

- **Choose a General News article from a local newspaper and illustrate it with two diverse photographs.** Make sure to research the story so you can write good captions.
- **Bring newspaper article to hand in and accompany photos in your paper folder.**
- **Read Text Pages 44 to 84 – General News and Covering the Issues.**
- **Due: Friday, March 7.**

Week Eight – Friday, March 7 – Critique General News shots and stories. Intro to **Shadow a Photographer assignment**. Guest Photojournalist.

Homework:

- **Set up your shift with a photojournalist for Shadow a Photojournalist assignment.** Due April 4th. Shoot at least three assignments with your photographer; write captions, and a one-page paper describing your experiences.
- **Make sure to shoot at least one Weather/Feature shot.**
- **Read Text Pages 84 to 99 on Features.**

- **START EARLY! PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE BUSY AND IT MAY TAKE DAYS TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!**
- **Due: Friday, April 11th. (Week Thirteen)**

Week Nine – Friday March 14 – Chicago Tribune Field Trip.

Homework: Work on Shadow Assignment.

Week Ten – Friday, March 21 – Introduce Environmental Portrait.

- Travel to **Hoffman Estates Fire Department** and make at least three environmental portraits with complete captions, page layout, and **Time Magazine Cover.**
- **Review Environmental Portrait Text Pages 100 to 115.**

Homework: Work on Environmental Portraits and Fireman Layouts (Due April 4). Also work on Shadow Assignment (Due April 11),

Week Eleven – Friday, March 28 – No Class – Spring Break (Work on Shadow and Environmental Portrait assignments.)

Week Twelve –Friday, April 4 – Critique Env. Portraits/layouts. – Intro Sound Slides/lab.

Homework: Shadow Assignment and typed papers. Due April 11.

Week Thirteen – Friday, April 11 – Critique SHADOW A PHOTOJOURNALIST

Homework: Intro to Final Project – Photo Essay. Travel to Easter Seals Villa Park To select subjects for photo essay and see 2007 Easter Seals exhibit. (Your work will be in the 2008 exhibit.)

- **Begin Final Project** after you learn identity of your Easter Seals subject. Call your subject and make an appointment to meet this week. **BEGIN SHOOTING. FIRST THREE PICTURES ARE DUE MAY 2.**
- **Review Text Pages 116 to 135 on Sports Photography.**

Week Fourteen – Friday, April 18– In-Service Day – No class. (Work on Easter Seals progress reports.) Due April 25.

Week Fifteen –Friday, April 25- Easter Seals Progress Reports Due. Intro to Sports Action Photography. Guest Speaker – Sports Photographer.

Homework:

- **Travel to Chicago Spring Classic Hockey Tournament. Shoot 2 Sports Actions shots with complete captions and final scores.**

Due: Friday, May 2.

Week Sixteen – Friday, May 2 – Critique Sports Action shots. Critique 1st three Easter Seals Photo Essay images.

Discuss Photo Essay progress and Text Pages 136 to 171. Review Examples of Photo Essays and Shoot List for Final Project.

Homework:

- **Work on Easter Seals Photo Essay.**
- **FINAL PROJECT IS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 16.**

Week Seventeen – Friday, May 9 – Edit Easter Seals Sound Slides and print versions of Photo Essays. Review for Final Exam.

Homework:

- **Finish Photo Essay/Sound Slides & Prints to turn in.**
- **Study for Final Exam.**
- **Photo Essay Presentations Friday, May 16.**

Week Eighteen – Friday, May 16– FINAL EXAM. Students present Easter Seals Sound Slides and printed Photo Essays.

***All the above dates & locations may be subject to last-minute change. I will give you updates as soon as I get them so you can plan ahead.**

PHOTOJOURNALISM STUDENT SURVEY
Spring Semester 2008

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

E-MAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER 1

TELEPHONE NUMBER 2

What Photography classes have you taken before this? Please list those taken at COD and at other schools.

Do you own a digital camera? A digital camera flash?

If so, what kind?

Do you own a film camera? A film camera flash?

If so, what kind?

Where do you plan to print your homework assignments?

At COD At Home At a Camera Store At a Professional Lab

How would you rate your skills in Adobe PhotoShop? Please circle one. (Your answers will not be held against you.)

Excellent Above Average Average Below Average None

Do you have PhotoShop at home?

What are you hoping to learn in Photojournalism?