

**Photojournalism 330 -- Fall 2007 — 21130**  
**Journalism Department -- University of Southern California**  
ASC G38 digital media classroom  
Tuesday and Thursday 11am-12:50pm

**Mission**

To learn the basic principles and ethics of visual journalism, with an eye toward the diverse perspectives existing throughout our community. You will learn to use a camera, expose film, and shoot pictures of people and events in a documentary style that tells a story, while providing complete caption information.

It is my goal to help you learn as much as you possibly can this semester. If there is something specific I can do to help you be more successful, or if you have any special personal challenges, talk with me about them so this class can be a

**Instructor:** Rick Meyer, Photojournalist

**Prerequisites:**

An interest in learning about the visual reporting of your community and the world.

**Recommended Reading:**

London, Barbara, and Upton, John. **Photography**. 6th edition. Longman: New York 1998. ISBN: 0-321-01108-2. This book will be on reserve in Annenberg Resource Center.

Various handouts provided throughout the semester.

You will be required to read an approved biography of a photojournalist of your choice.

You should be aware of local and national news, and read a newspaper of record every day, such as the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, or the Orange County Register. National Public Radio and various news websites provide important news as well.

**Additional Reading:**

*News Photographer* magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Orange County Register, and New York Times are all available daily in the Annenberg Resource Center.

NPPA Regional Annual Photography & Editing Contest Winners are in the ARC video collection. Newsmagazines, photo websites, photography books and catalogs, Biographies of photographers and photojournalists.

Associated Press Stylebook.

**Topics:** Basic camera controls.  
Shutter speed, panning, stop action.  
F/stop for depth of field.  
Angle: from worm to giraffe.  
The digital darkroom.

## History of Photojournalism.

### **Attendance**

Good attendance is mandatory if you expect to pass the class. Tests and assignments cannot be made up except in the most serious medical situations.

You may not make up quizzes and your assignments still must be turned in on time. If there are religious holidays you observe or unusual situations that require you to miss class, please let me know about them as far in advance as possible, preferably at the beginning of the semester.

### **Current Events**

### **Field Trips**

### **Portfolio**

### **Grading**

your ability to "see" photographs, the creative insights you have for photography. The amount of effort you expend on your class work will have a direct positive relationship to your grade.

50% Weekly Assignments  
25% Portfolio/Essay Project  
15% Quizzes  
10% Class Participation

A = Excellent. Professional quality work. Flawless technique. Relevant and insightful photos.

B = Good. Competent simple images that are storytelling. Good technique.

C = Acceptable. Average composition, technique and message.

D = Poor. Unsatisfactory and flaw-filled. This work is not publishable.

F = Unacceptable. Thoroughly unprofessional. A total failure to execute the assignment.

All pictures will be critiqued in class.

Note that successful photojournalism is not about perfection, it is about problem solving, being proactive, and investing your time wisely. Your out-of-class time usually includes 8 hours per week of homework and assignments. I will hold you to professional standards because I know you are capable of them.

The value of professional internships as part of the overall educational experience of our students has long been recognized by the School of Journalism. Accordingly, while internships are not required for successful completion of this course, any student enrolled in this course who undertakes and completes an approved, non-paid internship during this semester shall earn academic extra credit herein of an amount equal to one percent of the total available semester points for this course.

An advanced digital or 35mm camera with manually adjustable shutter speeds and apertures. Must be able to manually focus the lens. Two digital Canon Rebels will be available for checkout.

50mm, 35mm lens or zoom lens.

Strobe: You might need one that allows you to bounce light off the ceiling.

Film: 25-30 rolls of 35mm 36-exposure color negative film. ISO 400, ISO 800.

***You will be required to have your film processed for your assignments***

One ZIP (750 mb) disk, or thumb drive for storing photos.

Please keep cell phones and pagers set to “vibrate” or “off” during class. Please leave the classroom to handle emergency business without disturbing others.

Make sure the computer lab and classroom are clean before you leave. Respect your colleagues and friends by keeping your community workspace neat. Sorry, but no food or drinks are allowed in the computer lab/classroom.

**WILL affect your final grade.**

Even if you can't come, someone else can deliver your assignment by deadline.

**PLAN AHEAD.** If you are shooting at the last minute and something goes wrong, you won't have time to solve the problem. Shoot and process your assignments early in the week so you can reshoot if your story falls through, access isn't what you expected, subjects aren't cooperating, or you are having technical problems.

If your camera equipment is not working, make arrangements to use other gear or get it fixed. In the same way that your essay for your English class is still due on time even if your home computer is on the fritz, your photography assignments are due at the deadline (some camera service resources will be provided).

If you observe a religious holiday when class meets or if you become ill on the day of class, make arrangements to turn your materials in on time. See "Grading" above.

### **IMPORTANT STATEMENTS USC SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

**The following is the School of Journalism's policy on academic integrity as published in the University Catalog.**

**Since its founding, the USC School of Journalism has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will immediately receive a failing grade in the course and will be dismissed as a major from the School of Journalism. There are no exceptions to the school's policy.**

#### **PLAGIARISM**

**Plagiarism is defined as taking ideas or writings from another and passing them off as one's own; in journalism, this includes appropriating the reporting of another without clear attribution. The following is the Annenberg School of Journalism's policy on academic integrity as published in the University catalog: "Since its founding, the USC School of Journalism has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will receive a failing grade in the course and will be dismissed as a major from the School of Journalism. There are no exceptions to this policy."**

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776.**

**Meeting 1, Tuesday August 28**

**Meeting 2, Thursday, August 30**

IN BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND GEAR TO CLASS NEXT TUE.

**Meeting 3, Tuesday, Sept 4**

Camera/Equipment Clinic.  
Critique: News Stories.  
Clip Quiz.  
City News Service..  
Learning to See.  
Eight Characteristics of Photojournalism.  
Editing From Negatives and Slides.

**Meeting 4, Thursday, Sept 6**

**SHOOTING CLINIC. Bring your cameras to class. We will be walking around campus.**

## **Meeting 5, Tuesday, Sept. 11**

DUE NEXT WEEK: Spot News  
Suggested Reading Assignment

Critique Spot News  
Editing Quiz.  
Talking about photographs.  
Portrait/Personality shooting.  
Emailing Photos.  
Contracts and boilerplate.

Demonstration; Getting Started with PhotoShop  
Acquire Scanner, crop, color balance, contrast and print.  
Local Newspapers-Survey of picture use.  
Bring developed color neg. film and ZIP disks.  
DUE NEXT TUESDAY: Portrait /personality.

## **Meeting 9, Tuesday, Sept. 25**

Why Lie?  
Exposure Guide.

Professional Bag of Tricks.  
Projects Advanced Planning. Mini-proposals/story ideas  
Video. American Photography Tape 2.  
Assignment: Straight News.  
IN TWO WEEKS.....Environmental Portrait.

Local Newspapers-Survey of picture use.  
Newsmagazines-Survey of picture use.  
Critique: Straight News.  
Caption Writing.  
Project Pitches (follow-up).

Environmental Portrait.  
The Wires.  
Video. Clarence Williams Video.  
Assignment: Environmental Portrait (due Oct 10th).  
NEXT TUESDAY: Midterm  
Suggested Reading Assignment.

Midterm.  
Project Approvals.  
Local Newspapers-Survey of picture use.  
Newsmagazines-Survey of picture use.

Critique: Environmental Portrait.  
Photographing public to private.  
Privacy and the Right to Know.  
Commonly Recognized Rights of Privacy.  
Where You Can Take Pictures.  
Libel and Slander.  
Photo contest next week: Technical Control.  
PROJECTS FIRST EDIT NEXT TUESDAY.  
ASSIGNMENT: Portfolio Project.

Contest judging: Technical Control.  
Police/Press Relations Guidelines.  
LAPD Media Guide  
Portfolio Project First Edit.  
Editorial Thinking.  
Digital camera buying guide.  
Flash Guide.  
The Color Temperature of Light.

Photo Essay Editing Exercise.  
Photo Contest next week: Mistakes that will never be published.  
Video. American Photography Tape 3.  
ASSIGNMENT: Portfolio Project.

Portfolio Project Edit.  
Picture Editing Practices.  
The Job of the Photo Editor  
LIFE Formula for Photo Editing.  
Questions Photo Editors Should Ask.  
Editing Your Picture Pages/Project.

Contest judging: Mistakes that will never be published..  
Photo Contest: They only come out at night.  
Video. National Geographic's The Photographers.  
ASSIGNMENT: Portfolio Project.

Portfolio Project Edit.  
Photos that tell you nothing.  
Who do you work for?  
Contest judging: They only come out at night.  
What you can learn from websites.  
How to feel comfortable photographing strangers.

Shooting for the average reader.  
Photographer's Lingo.  
Photo organizations.  
Editing Exercise.

ASSIGNMENT: Portfolio Project.

Guest Speaker.  
Portfolio Project Edit.  
Extra credit. They only come out at night.

Advanced PhotoShop methods.  
20 ways to find a feature.  
Assign book reports. DUE NOV.14<sup>th</sup>.  
Essay presentation methods.  
Copyright.  
Business Management for Photographers  
ASSIGNMENT: Portfolio Project.

Portfolio/Photo Essay edit and production.  
Guest Speaker  
Q and A session.

Book report presentations.  
Talking about photojournalism.  
Dealing with “your” reporter, editor, and art director.  
Portfolio/Photo Essay edit and production.

Guest speaker.  
Photo books.

Portfolio/Photo Essay edit and production. Individual edits.  
Evaluations.  
Final Scanning, PhotoShop work, and printing.

Portfolio/Photo Essay edit and production. Individual edits.  
Evaluations.  
Final Scanning, PhotoShop work, and printing.

Projects presentations.  
Final Scanning, PhotoShop work, and printing

The Future of Photojournalism  
Final Portfolio/Photo Essay Critique.

Final Portfolio/Photo Essay Critique.  
Final Exam.