

JournalismCourse title **Visual Journalism**

Course section number JOUR 3098-003

3 credit course Fall semester

Assistant Professor Steven G. Smith

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2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m., Tues. Thurs., Oak Hall 473

Office hours

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 - 12:00

Additional office hours by appointment

Text bookPhotojournalism : ***The Professional Approach***

By Kenneth Kobre

Course requirements

Approved digital camera, card reader

External hard drive, 250 GB minimum

Course Description Visual Journalism Photojournalism still/motion

This course emphasizes practical visual journalism experience using a variety of techniques as used by media professionals. This course also looks at current trends in visual digital journalism such as fundamental photojournalism skills, multimedia, video, audio, with file preparation for press, new media, and internet presentation. **Adherence to deadlines will be strictly enforced.**

Course Objectives

Specific student learning objectives have been identified for the course. After concluding this course, students should be able to meet the following general course objectives:

1. Understand how to generate quality storytelling visual assignments.
2. Understand how to create engaging visuals that communicate content.
3. Develop skills in aesthetics and visual principles.
4. Understand the importance of ethics in journalistic visual storytelling.
5. Develop an understanding and appreciation for high quality visual journalism.
6. Develop basic skills in creating a photographic essay/picture story for multimedia.
7. Understand the audio skills for multimedia.
8. Understand and develop basic picture editing skills.
9. Develop entry level video capture skills.
10. Develop an understanding of how to assess and critique visual journalism work.

Evaluation Methods and Class Management**Grade Requirements**

A 93-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F 59 and below
A- 90-92	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Attendance

Students in the visual journalism courses are required to attend all classes. However, emergencies and illnesses do occur. When you are truly ill, and especially when you are contagious, it would be better if you didn't attend class. It is your responsibility to e-mail me on such occasions .

Participation 10% of grade- Students in this course are encouraged and expected to demonstrate the ability to discuss and assess work, communicate how work demonstrates application of visual principles, and to use classroom concepts, terminology of the discipline and historical reference in these discussions. Comments made in class discussions and during critiques are expected to be articulate, respectful and constructive. Free discussion, inquiry and expression are encouraged in class, but students must act in accordance with commonly accepted standards of academic conduct.

Visual Assignments 50% of grade - Assessment of visual journalism assignments is based on criteria selected by the instructor from the course rubric for visual assignments*. Please see the attached grading rubric as an example for visual assignments.

Any homework assignments given will be averaged and this average will count as one visual assignment.

Mid-Term Project 10% of grade

Final Project 30% of grade

Quizzes - Any quizzes will be averaged and count as a visual assignment.

Policy on late work (department policy)

We look at deadlines as deadlines, which means that we don't accept late work. The only exceptions are the same ones you would have at work. If there is some reason the student absolutely can not complete the work on time (sick, stranded at an airport, etc.), then he or she needs to notify the instructor **BEFORE** the deadline and request an extension. Proof may be requested. It is unacceptable not to turn in an assignment. A zero grade can easily cause you to fail this course or, at a minimum, reduce your grade significantly.

Redoing Assignments

- Redoing assignments is for the purpose of improving your grade and learning the objectives of the assignment.
- Only two assignments per class may be redone in a semester. The midterm and final projects can not be redone.
- An assignment must be redone **within one week** of receiving your grade.
- A caption can also be redone or appended, the new caption is worth a maximum of 5 pts.

Grading standards for written work (based on department policy)

This course requires quality caption writing. The following department standards also apply to caption writing for all visual journalism assignments.

- A** No factual errors; no major mechanical** errors, sound structure, organization, follows AP style; excellent writing – in other words, publishable.
- B** No serious factual errors; structure, organization; very few mechanical errors; follows AP style; clear, concise writing – could be published with minor editing.
- C** No serious factual errors; structure, organization; few mechanical errors; adequate coverage of subject – could be published with average editing.
- D** Minor, sloppy factual errors; poor structure, organization; several mechanical errors; inadequate coverage of subject; unclear, foggy writing – could not be published without substantial editing.
- F** Major factual errors including misspelled names; plagiarism; missed deadline; unacceptable lead, structure, organization; omission of important information; numerous mechanical errors that would cause the caption or story to be returned to the journalist for a second effort.

** Mechanical errors are errors in style, spelling, grammar, sentence or paragraph structure. Definition includes computerized spell checking errors and oversights as well as any typographical errors you may have failed to correct by hand when copy editing your captions.

Academic integrity (department and university policy)

Please review the revised Student Code located at: http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html. Note in particular the sections on cheating and plagiarism in Appendix A: Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code_appendix.html.

Academic misconduct is taken seriously at UConn. For journalists, plagiarism is enough to end a job and often a career. We take it very seriously in this department. Students who are found to have committed plagiarism or other forms of cheating usually are given a failing grade for the course, not the assignment. As journalists, faculty members are adept at exactly the kind of research needed to reveal plagiarism. Please consider this fair warning.

The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs provides this **description of Academic misconduct**:

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing or receiving assistance on academic work (papers, projects, examinations) in a way that was not authorized by the instructor. Any attempt to improperly influence (bribery, threats) any member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the University in any matter relating to academics or research
- Plagiarism
- Doing academic work for another student
- Presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the instructors
- Situations where one student knowingly assists another student in committing an act of academic misconduct, and any student doing so will be held equally accountable for the violation

Notices

Students should be prepared to spend additional time during the open lab times to complete assignments.

Photographic text books may contain images or discussion on subjects that some students may feel are controversial such as extreme violence and or nudity.

Images produced for the class may be retained by the instructor for purposes of examples and for promotion of the class and the University of Connecticut Journalism Department.

The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester, as the learning environment requires.

Approximate course schedule and topics

Section 1. The **camera**, basic introduction to the digital camera (homework 30 photos)

The **software**, basic introduction to Adobe Bridge and PhotoShop

Ethics and software

2. Introduction of **aesthetics** (reading)

Introduction to visual communication

Visual journalism and ethics

3. The photojournalism **portrait**, portrait assignment

Critique and discussion

4. The **feature** photograph, feature photograph assignment

Critique and discussion

5. The **sports** photograph, sports photography assignment

Critique and discussion

6. The **general news** photograph, general news assignment

Critique and discussion

7. Video and the DSLR camera

Critique and discussion

8. Midterm Project

Video interview/portrait, video portrait assignment

9. Multimedia project, Picture story and photo essay

Pitch project proposal

10. First deadline, critique and discussion

Video Editing

11. Audio & Multimedia storytelling

Audio Assignment and critique

12. Second deadline, multimedia project

Critique and discussion

13. Third deadline, multimedia project

Critique and discussion

14. Project production

Critique and discussion

15. Project production

Critique

Final project deadline

Finals week