

Media Photography II

Journalism 339

Fall 2008 TR 10:20am-12:30pm

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126A Clow Classroom

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Office hours: MW 10:20am-11:20am; TR 9:10am-10:10am, 1:50pm-2:50pm

Online at desire2learn (www.uwosh.edu/d2l) and <http://uwomediaphoto2.blogspot.com/>

Description: Introductory digital color photography for journalistic publications and online media. Picture editing, picture story planning and execution. Emphasis on selection, composition, and content suitable for publication.

You must have received a C or better in Media Photography I to take Media Photography II, as well as meeting all other requirements listed in the university bulletin.

Objectives: You will practice working in color, use artificial lighting, and shoot with a digital SLR. A goal is to help you find which area of photography interests you most and to help you improve in that area.

Grades:

Earth Charter	15
Studio	15
Election	20
Essay	10
Portfolio	30
Attendance and Participation	10
Total	100

Texts: the required skills text is the *National Geographic Ultimate Field Guide to Photography*. Another text is required, *Criticizing Photographs: An Introduction to Understanding Images*, 4th edition, which is on reserve at the library. *Criticizing Photographs* will help us to critically analyze photography and understand how photography is used to represent diversity in many forms. It will help to prepare you in writing your essay.

Things costing money: Negative sleeves, compressed air, china pencil, loupe, and color film. The 4x5 optional assignment will require you to spend at least \$5 for each sheet of film and processing for each image. You may need flash drives or CDs/DVDs.

Academic Honesty: All your work must be of your own original creation.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken and participation is expected. Part of participation is to enter the Photographer's Forum College Photography Contest. Forms will be provided. Give me a copy of completed form and photos.

Submitting photos: Unless otherwise noted, please submit your sleeved negatives, index prints, prints, and critique sheet for each image. You will submit these in a clean, large envelope or expandable folder. High-resolution photos submitted for a grade are to be put in the D2L Dropbox. If you shoot with a digital SLR, turn in unused images on a CD or DVD. Photos should be 300 resolution. Do not give me the low-resolution (72) jpgs unless stated under the assignment requirements.

Late assignments are deducted 10 pts for each class day missed. This starts with the day it is due, whether it is during class or before it. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due--unless otherwise stated!

Instructions might vary for special projects. Burn all Soundslides or Flash folders/files for me.

Assignments and Grading:

All assignments are to be done in color. Earth Charter, Studio and Election assignments all require Soundslides or Flash presentations. Black and whites can be used for portfolios.

The assignments mentioned above are to be placed in your blog/Website AND embedded in the class blog. You will need a hosting site for your Soundslides. I've used WebNG.

Earth Charter

The first assignment is to prepare you in working in color. Three-to-five photographs will be submitted. The theme reflects the principles of Earth Charter (<http://www.uwosh.edu/earthcharter>). We will be participating in an Earth Charter promotional project as a public service endeavor. You will retain the copyright to all photos, but photos will be used to promote this university event. The orientation must be journalistic or public relations unless otherwise approved by instructor.

Photograph and write a brief statement (about 300-700 words including captions) about an issue of concern to Earth Charter.

Make digital contact sheets with images 3 x 4 (File>Automate>Contact Sheet II). Only basic Photoshop techniques (sharpening, toning, color balance, etc) may be used on this assignment. The point is for you to learn how to make adjustments while shooting. No layering or dropping out of elements.

Upload hi res pics to D2L. We will go over adding photos to blogs in class.

Studio

Before you do this assignment, you will practice in small groups to learn the equipment. We will take portraits of each other as practice. You will use the studio during your free time.

For your actual graded assignment, you will produce two still lives shot with the department digital SLR and one of a person as a subject. Still Life #1 is of a food and/or beverage shot. Please clean up your area when done. Still Life #2 is of any still life subject. Picture #3 is of a person in the studio. You determine what to show—it is a lighting exercise. You must bring your own backdrop (sheet, blanket, etc).

Please remember to remove the battery from the camera when you are done shooting or it will die forever!

For insurance and legal reasons, no animals or open bottles of alcohol are allowed in the studio. For inspiration you can go to Corbis.com or Getty.com to get ideas for studio shots, as long as you include a print of the photo(s) that inspired you.

Make digital contact sheets with images 3x4. Only basic Photoshop techniques (sharpening, toning, color balance, etc) may be used on this assignment. The point is for you to learn how to make adjustments while shooting. No layering or dropping out of elements.

Election 2008

Your third assignment is to shoot a minimum of 10 photos of something related to the 2008 elections. You will choose the specific subject and whether it is an essay, story, or series of advertisements.

About 3-5 students will be selected to work on a special election project for OCNN with other classes.

Essay

Write a three-page, interpretive essay on one photographer's work. The source for this work is a book in a library, one you might own, or a website gallery. Your subject must be pre-approved by me during a class discussion. Show me the book or the website.

You will use one of the techniques discussed by Barrett. Subject's photography must also be put in historical perspective. Avoid Wikipedia and laypeople's Websites in favor of books, magazines like *Aperture*, and Websites by important organizations like those of museums.

Provide copies of any pages you cite, unless the source is one of our textbooks. Include these pages in a folder with your essay. Please provide a paper copy of the essay and a digital PDF version in D2L. Essay must have separate title page.

Final Project

Make a portfolio of 12-20 photographs. Your portfolio must consist of 12-20 color and/or black and white images, and it can include images from Photo I, Photo II and any other photos you have made. I recommend that you try to find other things to shoot during the semester to include in the portfolio. This portfolio can be paper-based or digital-based (Flash or HTML). You will look at various examples.

4x5 Assignment for Bonus Credit

Your optional assignment is to use the department's 4x5 view camera. Students will shoot with 4-inch by 5-inch color transparency sheet film. The images will be previewed before shooting with a digital SLR. Turn in one 4x5 and a digital image scanned from our special flatbed scanner. Your score out of 10 is added to your attendance/participation grade as bonus credit.

Video Bonus Credit

You will receive 5 bonus points for every photo assignment if you make a related video of 60-90 seconds with sound (typically narration or interviews), at least five different shots, and post it online by the assignment deadline. This is all or nothing extra credit. If your video receives a zero, you may remake it. You can use iMovie on the Macs or another program that you are familiar with.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 (9/4)

Introduction, review basics and color film, professional genres of photography and given first assignment; schedule lighting sessions

Week 2

(9/9) **Bring your flash and camera, and manuals for both; upload a photo to class blog**

(9/11) 30-minute lighting sessions

Week 3

(9/16) Color and Cameras; Color in Photoshop, scanning & Photoshop filters; **bring a strip of film to practice**

(9/18) Soundslides; Digital imaging time for Earth Charter

Week 4

(9/23) **Critique Earth Charter at start of class**

(9/25) 20th century genres of photography

Week 5

(9/30) Street photography lecture

(10/2) Fashion photo examples; digital imaging time

Week 6

(10/7) **Critique Studio Projects at beginning of class**

(10/9) Theories of photography; lecture **Barrett chapters 1-2, writing exercise**

Week 7

(10/14) Lecture on **Barrett 3-4, writing exercise**

(10/16) Lecture on **Barrett 5 and 6, writing exercise**

Week 8

(10/21) Lecture on **Barrett 7 and 8; discuss your anticipated essay topic**

(10/23) Digital imaging time

Week 9

(10/28) **Status Report on Open Assignment at beginning of class; assign shoot-out groups**

(10/30) **Shoot-out; please bring a digital camera; submit up to three pics per person; shoot only during class and submit pics by end of class to class blog**

Week 10

(11/4) Critique Shoot-out for bonus credit then Photoshop time if time remains

(11/6) Photography video and discussion

Week 11

(11/11) **Essays due at beginning of class; students discuss their papers, show examples**

(11/13) Inspiring Photographers lecture

Week 12

(11/18) Portfolio requirements, England pics; **all optional 4x5 projects due by now**

(11/20) Portfolio demonstrations or video

Week 13

(11/25) **Election Assignment due for critique**

(11/27) Thanksgiving Vacation

Week 14

(12/2) Portfolio development time

(12/4) Portfolio development time

Week 15

(12/9) **Final Project due at END of class**

(12/11) Critique of portfolios

Quick Reference Sheet

Did you remember to?

- Resize (Image>Image Size; Resolution to 300)
- Sharpen*
- Tone (Image>Adjustments> Curves *or* Levels)
- Adjust color with Color Balance and, if needed, Hue/Saturation
- Clone out dust or scratches
- Crop out distracting details
- Write caption in description of File>File Info
- Place thin rule around photo
- Use jpegs (quality 12) and drop files in Desire2Learn

What are some of the things I cannot do?

You cannot remove objects in your photos without permission. The removal of blemishes and reflections might be acceptable.

What do I do differently for the final project?

“Photoshop” your high-resolution images. Make a copy of your images by File>Save As and rename your file. You now have two versions. Take the copy and change the resolution to 72 and make sure your image size is in the 6x9 or 8x10 range. Insert the 72 resolution images into Power Point.

Submit the low res and high res images in Desire2Learn. Also submit the Power Point in Desire2Learn.

You don’t need captions on your prints since they will be in Power Point.

Submit prints of high res images and Power Point presentation. You can print all the slides on one sheet by going into the Print window and choosing Options and then Power Point.

How do I make a digital contact sheet?

Make digital contact sheets with images 4x5 (File>Automate>Contact Sheet II).

*According to Photoshop (the following is quoted material):

To use Unsharp Mask to sharpen an image:

- 1 (Optional) If your image is multilayered, select the layer with the image you want sharpened. The Unsharp Mask can only be applied to one layer at a time, even if layers are linked or grouped. You can merge the layers before applying the Unsharp Mask filter. For more information on merging layers, see [Merging and stamping layers](#).
- 2 Choose Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask. Make sure the Preview option is selected.

Click the image in the preview window and hold down the mouse to see how the image looks without the sharpening. Drag in the preview window to see different parts of the image, and click + or - to zoom in or out.

Although there is a preview window in the Unsharp Mask dialog box, it's best to move the dialog box so you can preview the effects of the filter in the document window.

- 3 Drag the Radius slider or enter a value to determine the number of pixels surrounding the edge pixels that affect the sharpening. The greater the radius value, the wider the edge effects. And the wider the edge effects, the more obvious the sharpening.

Adjusting the Radius value depends on the subject matter of the image, the size that the image will be reproduced at, and output method. For high-resolution images, a Radius between 1 and 2 is usually recommended. A lower value sharpens only the edge pixels, whereas a higher value sharpens a wider band of pixels. This effect is much less noticeable in print than on-screen, because a 2-pixel radius represents a smaller area in a high-resolution printed image.

- 4 Do one of the following:

- Drag the Amount slider or enter a value to determine how much to increase the contrast of pixels. For high-resolution printed images, an amount between 150% and 200% is usually recommended.
- Drag the Threshold slider or enter a value to determine how different the sharpened pixels must be from the surrounding area before they are considered edge pixels and sharpened by the filter. For instance, a threshold of 4 will affect all pixels that have tonal values that are different (on a scale of 0 to 255) by 4 or greater. So, if adjacent pixels have tonal values of 128 and 129, they will not be affected. To avoid introducing noise or posterization (in images with flesh tones, for example), use an edge mask or try experimenting with Threshold values between 2 and 20. The default Threshold value (0) sharpens all pixels in the image. For more information on using an edge mask for selective sharpening, see [Selective sharpening](#).

If applying Unsharp Mask makes already bright colors appear overly saturated, convert the image to Lab mode and apply the filter to the Lightness channel only. This sharpens the image without affecting the color components.