

## media photography 1      fall 2009      Dr. Tim Gleason

**Monday and Wednesday 8am-10:10am; 12:40pm-2:50pm**

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[www.uwosh.edu/d2l](http://www.uwosh.edu/d2l); Office: MW 10:20am-11:20am, 3pm-4pm; TR 9am-10am**

**Course Description:** Study and practice of photography related to journalistic publications and online media. Laboratory work includes use of cameras digital imaging equipment.

This is both an introductory media photography class and an introductory photography class. I assume you enter this class with no photography experience. Do not expect to be an expert after one semester. Just enjoy your photography.

**Objectives:** Learn the fundamentals of photography and to be able to complete basic media photo assignments.

You will complete basic (yet important) digital imaging tasks appropriate for photojournalism. This is NOT a Photoshop class. You will learn proper sharpening, toning, caption printing, cropping, color balance and hue, and scanning. Advanced techniques not appropriate for photojournalism are taught in the advertising design class.

**Equipment:** You are required to have regular access to either a (1) SLR or rangefinder camera that has manual controls for focusing and making exposures. Cheap cameras are found on eBay; OR (2) some digital EVF cameras that allow similar controls.

**Grading:** You will be held to the high standards applied to other journalism classes and introductory photography classes. My standards are based on my experience teaching at three universities in two different states, as well as being a former student of five different photo professors. Your grade will consist of assignments and in-class activities and quizzes. More specifically, your grade is made up of:

Five photo assignments at 100 points each	500
Final project	350
In-class/lab discussion, quizzes, blog	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance/participation and timeliness is mandatory. I will take attendance every day. Activities will often be unannounced. The 15 percent of your grade for in class/lab includes your attendance and participation in class discussions and critiques. I reserve the right to not repeat information or offer material after it has already been offered in class or lab. Make-up opportunities for in-class activities or quizzes are generally not allowed. Your blog will be reviewed near the end of the semester. This grade is connected to your participation. Your blog will be judged on the links, comments and extra photos you post. Absences deducted at 10% (of 100) a day, late 5%.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day specified for each assignment. Any assignment not submitted at the stated time and day will be docked 10 points per class beginning with the class session it was due. Final projects are docked at 10 points per day on 24-hour cycles.

**Academic Honesty:** Refer to the student handbook for more information. You must be aware of this information. Any work you submit must be your own creation.

**Source: UW Oshkosh Student Discipline Code**

**UWS 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.**

(1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or student's academic performance; or
- (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or

assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**Assignments:** Assignments are based on John Szarkowski's five characteristics of the photograph: the thing, the detail, the frame, time, and vantage point. Photography assignments will be graded using higher standards as the semester progresses. Photos will be posted to your own blog or Website with captions, and you must post a link in the D2L Discussion forum. There are three things you need to do: turn in physical materials, post images to your blog or Website, and submit high-resolution images to D2L. Below are the instructions.

*Physical materials:* Assignments are to be submitted inside an 11 x 14 inch (or close to that) envelope or in an expandable folder. Presentation is always important so don't submit assignments in messy envelopes. Enclosed should be:

- your negatives or CD-R
- critique sheet with exposures in the boxes
- index prints or digital contact sheets
- 300 res prints (hi res) with captions

Please have your name on the outside of the envelope. Note that photographs submitted of the local wildlife (squirrels, etc) are frowned upon. If the wildlife is acting like the killer rabbit in Monty Python's *The Holy Grail*, then this might be acceptable.

*Blog or Website:* If you don't already have one, get a blog or Website from hosts like Blogspot or Wordpress. It has to be open to the public or you can have access settings that allow just the class to view the page. However, class members should not be required to create an account to view it. Images should be posted at resolution, which are low-resolution copies of the images printed and put in D2L. Post link to D2L.

*D2L:* Drop digital files of your images in the "Dropbox" in Desire2Learn. Each assignment has its own folder within the dropbox. The images should be 300 resolution jpegs. You won't be able to access these images after you drop them.

## **The Thing: Portrait and Self-portrait**

Objective: To demonstrate you can operate the camera, scan and make digital prints, based on our lecture and lab activities.

Submit two photographs. If using film, make sure you use Kodak or Fuji color negative film in 400 ISO only and use 24 or 36 exposures, if using a film camera. I would get 36 if I were you.

#1) An environmental/personality portrait. This image should say something about the subject. Caption should identify person.

#2) Self-portrait of yourself doing what you often do or that shows your personality. Include caption in third person form.

Hints: Be careful about what shows in your backgrounds. Make the photos really show a personality. Avoid cliches. Do we need many more shots of students studying at computers?

## **The Frame**

Objective: To get you in the habit of looking at scenes in different ways.

Photograph a scene in a horizontal format and a vertical format of the same subject to get two different photos. Scan and include caption in the file so it will print out.

#1) Horizontal photograph from a horizontal negative/frame.

#2) Same general scene, but take a vertical photo from a vertical negative/frame.

Hints: The format you use should emphasize the inherent qualities of the subject.

## **Time**

Objective: To demonstrate basic understanding of different shutter speeds and how they are used. Scan and include caption in the file so it will print out. Put shutter speed and f-stop in caption.

Use a fast (high) shutter speed and a slow (low) shutter speed to your advantage. This can be of different subjects.

#1) Fast shutter speed.

#2) Slow shutter speed.

Hints: The fast shutter speed should stop action. Use it so it is obvious. For example, if you stop a car on High or Algoma with a fast shutter speed, how do I know it really isn't stopped? You will probably need to place your camera on something stable for the slow shutter speed photo. Remember to use the appropriate f-stop when changing shutter speeds,

### **Vantage Point**

Objective: To demonstrate how scenes will look different from different perspectives. Scan and include caption in the file so it will print out.

#1) Shoot a subject from a low angle.

#2) Shoot the same or a different subject from a high angle.

Hint: Hold onto your camera tightly when photographing from really high places.

### **The Detail**

Objective: To demonstrate you understand what depth of field is and how it affects detail; to demonstrate improved scanning and Photoshop skills. Put shutter speed and f-stop in caption.

This assignment requires you to take the otherwise same photos using different f-stops. By using widely different apertures you will have some images with noticeable backgrounds and others with blurry backgrounds. You must use the same lens for each photo. If you have a zoom lens, then you must use the same focal-length setting. Do NOT change your focus point.

#1) Photograph a subject with the widest lens opening you can use, such as f2 or f4. Set your lens aperture to this widest setting and find the shutter speed that matches it. On a sunny day you might not be able to set your shutter speed to a number high enough to please your meter. In this case, adjust your aperture one stop at a time until you have a good exposure.

#2) Photograph the same subject with a small f-stop like f22 or f16. This will be easy on a sunny day. If you don't have much light then this will be hard. The reason is a small aperture doesn't allow in much light and if there isn't much available light, then you will need a slow shutter speed. Shutter speeds slower than 1/60 or 1/250 can cause blurring, so you might need to stabilize it. Set your lens aperture to the smallest setting and try to find a compatible shutter speed. If

you can't use a shutter speed fastest enough, then you may open up your aperture until you find a decent combination.

Hints: The more the backgrounds differ in depth of field the better your grade.

### **Final Project: Color and Series**

Objective: To demonstrate overall mastery and ability to cover a subject from various perspectives.

The form of presentation will be in Soundslides (you will be given instructions on how to use this). You should aim to turn in 5-7 excellent photos of either a feature/news photo story/essay or an advertising campaign in color. You will turn in the usual material plus the Soundslides files and low-resolution images.

Hints: If a journalistic subject, you really do need to cover your subject more than once. Most people can't do it on one visit. Don't wait until the end of the semester to start on this.

### **Questions and Comments**

I pay attention to students' comments that are made to me directly or on evaluations. I like to share them with new students so they know what to expect. My goal is to get everyone up to the level that they could take any advanced photo class in the country.

#1 How is the workload or difficulty? This is a journalism class and the expectations are similar to those of other journalism classes and art photography classes. This is NOT a blow-off class "just because it is photography."

#2 Why do I need this kind of camera? To really learn photography you need to use the proper tools. Without the camera, it would just be a digital imaging class.

#3 Why are aesthetics important? Anyone can take a snapshot of their pet, just like anyone can write a letter to their grandmother. However, we are aiming to make pictures that other people will be interested in, like how you learn to write news stories that will interest many people.

**Supplies:** This will be expensive, but I tried to keep costs down.

Digital camera users should manually adjust their ISO. However, first assignment will be on any film requiring process C-41 and has an ISO of 400. You may choose other ISO film after the first assignment.

Can of compressed air, also known as canned air, if shooting film. This can often be found more cheaply at office supplies stores sold as canned air for computers.

You probably want a jump or flash drive (USB drive) to store images.

The text is the *National Geographic: The Ultimate Field Guide to Photography*. 2006.

### **Journalism Lab Disk Options**

There are several ways to save files in the labs, in order to have your files saved and saved correctly make sure you know the options.

**Titan Files:** Titan Files is a university server storage system allowing you to save and access files from any computer with internet access. Free service of UW-Oshkosh

**CD-R/RW:** Lab machines in 128 and 148 are equipped with CD-RW drives. If you place a blank CD into these machines it will show up as a normal disk that you can drag files to. **Remember:** disks are not “burned” until you try to eject them, depending on the size of the CD a disk can take as long as 15 minutes to finish burning.

Disks cost about \$5 for a 10 pack of CD-R, slightly more for CD-RW (read & write)

**“Flash” Drives:** Flash drives are a term for small, keychain sized drives that can plug into the USB ports on the Keyboards of any of the machines in the labs. They are a great option because unlike Zip disks they contain no moving parts and are very reliable. Also they can connect to any computer that has a USB port, Mac or PC. That way you won’t have to buy a zip drive to access your files at home. Remember that like any other disk you have to drag it to the trash to “eject” it before you can remove the drive from the USB port.

Cost starts at ~\$10 depending on size, available online or at Target and other stores.

### Tentative Schedule (Open lab time is for feedback while you work)

- Week 1 (9/9) -Introduction; ISO and exposure; discuss first assignment and final project
- Week 2 (9/14-16) -ISO and exposure; Camera basics; **Read 6-43**
- Camera basics. **Bring camera with charged/new batteries and roll of film, if used. Also bring instructional manual and anything that might confuse you; Read 44-95**
- Week 3 (9/21-23) -Photoshop Basics; **Read 210-251**
- Scanning; Digital Contact Sheets; **bring your film sleeved, air and a removable disk if you use one to save photos. If using digital, bring digital images; Read 320-337**
- Week 4 (9/28-30) -Using Adobe Bridge; setting up your blog; open lab
- Finish digital imaging during first hour; **Submit Asg1 (portraits) for critique at beginning of second hour;** discuss next assignment
- Week 5 (10/5-7) -Spot News and general news and captions; **Read 118-153;** open lab
- Features and caption lecture
- Week 6 (10/12-14) **-Submit Asg 2 (Frame) after first hour;** discuss next assignment
- See photo exhibition at the Paine (**bring \$7**)
- Week 7 (10/19-21) - Sports, captions; open lab
- Portraits and captions
- Week 8 (10/26-28) - Caption lecture and exercise; lab open afterwards
- Digital imaging for one hour; **Submit Asg 3 (Time);** discuss future assignments

Week 9 (11/2-4) - Law and Ethical theories/practice  
-Photo Essay examples and practice editing; **Read 108-9**

Week 10 (11/9-11) -Advertising examples; digital imaging time  
-Open lab first hour; **Submit Asg 4 (Vantage Point) as digital image for critique after first hour; discuss next project.**

Week 11 (11/16-18) -Photo Jeopardy  
-Working in color (Color Balance, Hue/Saturation);  
Photoshop web pages

Week 12 (11/23-25) -Soundslides practice (Bring any 5-7 photos)  
**-Thanksgiving break**

Week 13 (11/30-12/2) – Open Lab  
**-Submit Asg 5 (Detail) as digital image for critique after first hour**

Week 14 (12/7-9) - Blog review (Open lab, but I'll look at your blogs)  
-Open lab

Week 15 (12/14-16) -**Final projects are due at end of session on Day 1**  
**-Day 2 is for critique**

**Classroom Rules**

1. Don't be a slob. We all have to use these spaces. Pick up after yourselves.
2. Ask for advice. It is free.
3. Don't hit something that doesn't work.
4. Don't store files on computer.
5. Do not make degrading comments about the Buffalo Bills, pro soccer or my windowless office.
6. No country music, hip hop or rap to be played in my presence.
7. Share advice.

**Helpful hints!**

If you are confused about grading standards, then please ask me and I will be happy to explain. Or, if you are having any technical problems it is best to let me know as soon as possible.