

CO 3403: Photographic Communication
Class Meetings:

Section 01 MW 8:00 - 9:50 AM

Associate Professor Wendy Roussin, MFA

Office: 37 McComas Hall
Office Hours: MW 2-3 PM
or by appointment

Location: 216 McComas Hall

email: wroussin@comm.msstate.edu

REFERENCES

A Short Course In Digital Photography
Barbara London, Jim Stone, (ISBN: 0205066429)
Any up-to-date Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom manual (online)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Study and practice of techniques of photography and digital imaging as they relate to visual communication in journalism, public relations, mass media, and related fields.

This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic principles of photography and digital image editing as they relate to a photojournalistic style of expression. Technical, practical and aesthetic concerns will be part of each assignment. Students will work primarily with monochromatic imagery, but will have a brief introduction to color image editing. Assignments will be shot using a digital SLR camera, input & perfected in the computer and output in appropriate fashion (this may differ from assignment to assignment and may involve multimedia applications in addition to still image editing).

A dSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera outfit (body + lens) is REQUIRED to complete assignments for this class.

CLASS EMAIL LISTS and WEBSITE

I will periodically send class related information via a class email list. Please check your email regularly.

Class information such as PDF's of handouts and sample projects can be found at <http://wkr1.comm.msstate.edu/3403/>

ATTENDANCE: CLASS & CRITIQUE TIMES

Attendance in class and during scheduled critiques is mandatory. If an absence is necessary, please try to contact me prior to the beginning of class. Each student may have up to 3 absences without penalty. Use them wisely. After 3 absences, the penalty will be 5 points off the final average for each successive absence, up to a total of 10 points. It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time for class and sign the roll sheet.

Outside of official University sanctioned events, there are no unexcused absences, except under extreme and unusual circumstances. If you wish for an absence to be excused, please bring a written explanation from an unbiased person of authority (doctor, lawyer, judge).

Certain class periods will be primarily "work" periods. If you come to class unprepared to work, you will be counted absent. "Work" days and "Open Lab" times require class attendance unless specifically indicated. Because of the important nature of critique, late

arrival to class on critique days will not be tolerated and late assignments will not be accepted without a significant reason.

No food or drink is allowed in the classroom space. The use of cell phones and/or text messaging in class is prohibited. Devices will be confiscated.

EVALUATION

The grading scale is as follows: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 73-79 C, 66-72 D, Below 65 F

A grade of “A” would indicate consistently excellent work, a “B” would indicate above average work, and a “C” grade would indicate average work. Average should be defined as turning in the assignment or project on time and meeting all stated requirements. Above average and excellent grades are earned by exceeding the assignment or project specifications in a demonstrable way, generally by aesthetic concerns and technical skill. Grades of a “D” or “F” are earned by failing to meet deadlines and expectations for assigned coursework.

Assignments – 60 %

Photographic assignments will be the main crux of this class. They will range from the technical to the aesthetic, covering different aspects of photography & photojournalism.

Each assignment will have unique guidelines. All work MUST be turned in within the project specifications and may include multiple versions. Assignments turned in “on-time” are eligible to be reworked for a higher grade, subject to certain limitations and deadlines. Late work MAY be accepted with a penalty and an approved explanation.

Electronic Journal – 15 %

You will be required to keep a weekly journal of published imagery (from the web and/or print media) related to the assignments and assigned readings for the class. This journal will be due near the end of the term.

Final Project (Photographic Essay) – 25 %

The final project for this class will be an expanded photographic essay (4-6 image). Images selected for the essay will be due in a still format and also in an alternative format (web, multimedia). Style and subject matter for your essay must be approved.

Failure to present a Final Project will constitute Failure of the class. No exceptions.

This project will be due EITHER during the Final Exam Period or on the last scheduled day of class – Wednesday November 29. Final decision will be held via a class vote PRIOR to the Fall Break.

Scheduled Exam Time

Monday, December 4, 8-11 am

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

Please remember to conduct all class related emails in a professional manner. It is preferred that all emails originate from your official MSU email address. All emails should contain your full name and the name of the class and should contain an appropriate subject line that indicates the reason for the email. Complete sentences should be used in the email and there should be no texting abbreviations. You should complete a 'spell check' before sending. If you are requesting a meeting – please indicate the times you are available.

Honor Code

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: “As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>.

Title IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU’s educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU’s Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by email to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at <http://www.msstate.edu/web/security>, or at <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

Support Services

Students who need academic accommodations based on a disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at <http://www.sss.msstate.edu>.

MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLY LIST

dSLR Camera and Lens

- dSLR Camera Body
 - This type of camera allows you to remove & exchange lenses, and has a viewfinder
 - It must have full manual capabilities or overrides - This means you can adjust aperture, shutter & focus
- dSLR Camera Lens (at least 1)
 - Generally the lens needs to be the same brand / mount as your camera body
 - Lens should be a standard or zoom lens including a “Normal” field of view (35mm for most dSLR cameras)

dSLR camera bodies are not required to have video capabilities.

Students should have no other expenses beyond the procurement of the camera and an appropriate memory card and storage

Imaging Supplies for dSLR Camera Users

- Appropriate Memory Card to fit your camera. (8 GB or greater recommended)

Required Storage

- Portable Hard-drive or USB Flash-Drive (8 GB or larger recommended)

A TRIPOD is very useful but is not a required item.