Nashville State Community College
Business & Applied Arts Division
(Photojournalism)

Master Course Syllabus

This master course syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course. Each instructor will further clarify their criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her course syllabus.

PHO-1470/Photojournalism
Credits: 3
Class Hours: 2 Lab Hours: 2
Course description: An introduction to photojournalism. Topics include techniques and equipment needed when shooting for publication and places an emphasis on producing digital images. Prerequisite(s): PHO 1110, PHO 1490, and COM 1230 with a grade of “C” or higher in all listed prerequisites

Instructor Information:
Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location:
Office Hours:

Textbook and Other Materials:
Reference Materials:
Supplies: Digital SLR Camera
USB or portable hard drive
Notebook
Bring camera, textbook and notebook to every class.

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
• Apply skills in visualization and human interaction in order to create dynamic images that document people, their lives and activities.
• Demonstrate knowledge of visual literacy to effectively edit and critique images.
• Produce a publishable photo story with 6-10 cohesive images that addresses a human or societal concern.
• Apply knowledge and skills of current technology to produce a professional quality portfolio of images.
• Recognize ethical and legal considerations and professional standards of newsgathering
organizations.
• Apply time management skills to meet deadlines.

**Course Competencies:**
The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:
The following lists of competencies is intended to reinforce the outcomes listed above.
• Ability to make publishable photographs of news, features, sports, environmental portraiture and any variety of human endeavor.
• Technical knowledge for making digital images in a variety of situations.
• Use of a variety of compositional techniques to produce creative images that convey information relevant to a given story or moment.
• Use of basic lighting awareness and techniques to give photographs more impact and visual interest in a variety of locations.
• Ability to produce effective, descriptive, and concise captions that augment photographs using competent grammar and punctuation.
• Basics skills of Photoshop to import, size, crop, and color adjust images, and add caption and copyright information.
• Ability to evaluate photographs, using critical thinking skills to determine whether or not they have successfully met the requirements of an assignment from concept to completion.
• Ability to brainstorm ideas on how to visually communicate a topic.
• Independent initiative to be able, given a topic, to research and acquire information and contacts as well as necessary permissions to photograph various people and locales.
• Skill in interacting with people in a way that allows them to be themselves as they are documented photographically.
• Ability to preconceive a photograph and anticipate action that will tell the story, while being ready to document whatever happens.
• Ability to handle oneself and one’s gear in almost any situation
• Ability to work on tight deadlines.
• Knowledge of legal and ethical issues of modern photojournalism (including issues posed by digital photojournalism)
• Basics of assembling a portfolio, and approaching the job market
• Ability to photograph and sequence 6 - 10 images into a cohesive picture story that encompasses skills learned in weekly assignments.

**Right to retain student work:**
The Visual Communications program reserves the right to retain certain selected examples of student work for teaching purposes, promotional purposes, and as a part of its permanent collection.

**Assignments and Expectations:**
Photojournalism involves independent work on assignments in the community at large. Significant time will be required outside class to shoot, edit and process these assignments each week as well as to fulfill reading assignments. Students must be self-motivated. This is an advanced class that requires a high level of technical and aesthetic skills learned in previous classes.
Guest lectures by working professional photographers will be scheduled throughout the semester and attendance at these presentations is mandatory.

**Course Assessments:**
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge and skills:
Attendance, photographic and research assignments, required reading, class participation, tests and completion of projects.
Evaluation will consist of the following:
Critiques of photographs and their captions, assignments timely presented, creativity and quality of work, class participation, tests, and visual communication skills.

**Grading Policy:**
**A:** Excellent, above-average work. Student successfully achieves course outcomes and competencies. Assignments exceed requirements, and are turned in on time. Perfect attendance and active participation.
**B:** Above-average work. Achieves course outcomes and competencies. Assignments meet or exceed requirements and are turned in on time. Excellent attendance and participation.
**C:** Average work. Achieves most course outcomes and competencies. Assignments meet requirements or and are turned in on time or no more than one week late. Good attendance and participation.
**F:** Failure to meet course outcomes and competencies. Failure to complete assignments as required. Poor attendance and participation.
Extra credit points awarded for photographs published during the course of this semester.

Grading Rubric:
50% Assignments and Participation
5% Mid-Term Test
10% Final Exam
10% Final Portfolio
25% Photo Story

**Grading Scale:**
A 93-100
B 85-92
C 77-85
D 70-76
F Below 70

**Attendance Policy**
A student is expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Each instructor will formulate an attendance policy and provide it on the course syllabus. Absences are counted from the first scheduled meeting of the class, and it is the responsibility of each student to know
the attendance policy of each instructor in whose class he/she is enrolled. If a student is absent from a class, he/she should give an advanced explanation to the instructor. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.

Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of “FA” or “FN” (see explanation below) depending on the individual instructor’s course policy.

FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required.
FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

Student Communication Channels
It is the student’s responsibility to check D2L and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

ADA Compliance Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Student Disabilities Office at 615.353.3721.

Classroom Misconduct
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Please consult your Student Handbook for more specific details.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught), failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2)
failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words (A Writer's Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else's work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else's work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of an inclement weather event, check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations (channels 2, 4, 5, and 17).

When classes are cancelled, an online assignment will be posted in NS Online. Check your NS Online email for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Even though classes may be cancelled, some areas, i.e. Testing Center, may be open. However, you should check before commuting to campus.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Security are responsible for cancellation decisions during an inclement weather event for the Nashville State main campus and the Southeast campus. Cookeville, Waverly, and Dickson Campus Directors will make class cancellation decisions based on conditions in their respective areas. Decisions about class cancellations are based on actual conditions, not forecasts. The perspective used for making decisions is that of the college as an employer, not as a K-12 institution. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.