News Photography I (COMM 1316-43310)
Arts & Communications Division
Spring 2019

Class Meets: Mondays 4:00 - 6:55
Lab Hours: Labs will be conducted during student photo assignments/field trips
Classroom: F-210

Instructor Kael Alford
Phone 845-321-3496
Office The Faculty Center, C-236
Office hours Mondays, by appointment only
E-mail kaelalford@gmail.com

Course Description
COMM 1316 (3 Credit Hours)

News Photography I
This is a Texas Common Course Number.
Course Description: Introduction to problems and practices of photography for newspapers, and/or fine art purposes/commercial output. Includes instruction in camera and equipment operation and maintenance, film and plate developing, digital and print media. (2 Lec., 4 Lab.)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 0904015506

Required Materials, Resources and Skills
- At least one 16gb Memory card or sufficient for capturing 300 high-resolution images
- Self-powered hard drive or USB flash storage (minimum 250GB)
- Reporter’s Notebook or small notepad
- Students should purchase a license for Photo Mechanic software for use at home. Access to Photoshop Software, PhotoMechanic Software and internet access are also available in the classroom and the Et. Cetera office. Both Photoshop and Photo Mechanic are available for a student rate.
- Assignments are posted on Blackboard and messages related to assignments are sent to the class via campus email. It is important that you read the full assignments on Blackboard and check email regularly. You will also be asked to watch videos online and view photography online.
- Basic computer skills, including the ability to type papers, use external storage devices, and upload to eCampus.
- Readings online at: https://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/, and other links provided by instructor.
Recommended Materials
- Digital camera with interchangeable lenses (DSLR or mirrorless) with full manual controls of aperture, shutter speed and ISO, and the users manual for this camera (they are always available online if you don’t have a hard copy). Please consult professor before buying one. Otherwise, you can check out gear at the Et Cetera office.
- Lenses that cover multiple focal lengths: wide, normal and some telephoto.

Course Goals and Outcomes
This course introduces students to the history, prominent forms, styles, practitioners, techniques, practice and ethical concerns of professional photojournalism. We will also explore thematic and narrative visual constructions. Students will develop a vocabulary for critique of visual communication in general and photojournalism in particular. Students will assemble a collection of original images that may be used as a professional photographic portfolio.

Communications Program Learning Outcomes
Upon receiving an associate’s degree in a journalism field of study you should be able to show mastery of the following student learning outcomes. Each of these will be taught in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Amendment</th>
<th>Journalism students should value the implications the First Amendment has throughout their journalistic work.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to edit and communicate messages verbally and non-verbally for different media outlets and audiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News</td>
<td>Journalism students should be able to identify newsworthy events, gather information about the same, and communicate those to audiences of different media outlets after editing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate the use of different technologies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Journalism students should apply the codes of ethics as well as legal rights and restrictions inherent to their chosen field of journalism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Journalism students should demonstrate research skills throughout their practical and academic course work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Journalism students should discuss the diversity of their professional environment as well as their audiences.</td>
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Classroom Policies and Procedures

Attendance Policy
Class attendance is mandatory and is essential to your success in this class since this is a skills course. Missed in-class lab assignments and quizzes cannot be made up unless you have an excused absence with official documentation from a medical professional or because of an official school function. Because this is a small class, attendance is also key for peer reviews and group assignments. If you are going to miss a class or be late, please email me as soon as possible because it may affect the class activity scheduled for that day.

Attendance will be taken, and absences will only be excused with official documentation. After two absences, any classes you miss will result in a penalty of 5 points each from your class participation grade. Arriving late or leaving early is a disruption to class. Arriving more than 15 minutes late to class three times will equate to one unexcused absence, resulting in a loss of 5 points.

Deadlines and Missed Assignments/Tests
Journalism is a deadline-oriented business, so we take deadlines extremely seriously in this course. Late assignments will not be accepted without providing proper documentation or getting prior approval from the instructor. Accommodations will be made for students who miss assignments or tests due to an approved extracurricular activity with the school or an illness that is accompanied by a doctor’s note.

Course Content Warning
Assignments in this class, including readings and videos, will involve sensitive topics such as racism, sexism, and violence. Some media content may include profanity, sexual suggestions/situations, and violent images. If you are particularly sensitive to any of these topics, please consult the instructor.

COMM 1316 Coursework
Students in this course will be asked to complete weekly photo assignments to be photographed outside of the classroom, discussion posts, in-class photography labs that require cameras, quizzes and a midterm exam. Students should bring cameras to every class and have access to hard copies or online copies of the manual for their particular camera.

Assignments and grading
Photo Assignments (5)
Students will be given five, skills-based photo assignments.
100 points each = 500 possible points (50% of final grade)

Photo essay critique/evaluation or additional photo assignment.
Student will evaluate a photo-based project of his or her choice no later than the midterm that reflects careful reflection on the quality of reporting use of photography as a visual language. This assignment may be substituted for an additional photo assignment based on the class needs.
100 points = (10% of final grade)

Final Project
The final project will be submitted one week before the end of the semester and will include a final series of 7-12 photographs on a single topic or theme carefully selected and sequenced.
for publication. The final series must include a brief, publishable summary of the project written in the style and tone of news reporting using correct AP style.

**200 possible points (20% of final grade)**

**Midterm Exam**
The midterm will cover lecture topics, skills learned during class exercises, and a section on discussing and evaluating news photographs.

**100 possible points (10% final grade)**

**Unannounced quizzes and Class Participation**

**Value: 100 points (10% of total grade)**

There will be unannounced quizzes based on assigned readings. Peer reviews of student work during critique, engagement and in-class exercises and attendance are a significant part of your class participation grade. Arriving unprepared on critique days (on days when assignments are due) will lower your class participation grade.

After three unexcused absences and/or tardiness of 15 minutes or more, a student will lose 5 class participation for each absence. Excused absences include illness with a doctor’s note or participating in a school-sponsored activity (faculty/employee verification required). Please advise the professor by email or in person if you know you are going to miss class.

**Total Possible Points in Course: 1,000**

**Grading Scale**

A = 900-1,000 points  
B = 800-899 points  
C = 700-799 points  
D = 600-699 points  
F = 0-599 points

**Submitting Work**

All work must be turned in through Google Drive or eCampus or in class, based on the instructor’s directions. *Please do not send in any assignments through email unless you ask the instructor first.* If you have any problems submitting an assignment online, please contact the instructor immediately. To avoid technical glitches, it’s best not to wait until the last minute to submit quizzes and assignments since you have an entire week to complete them in most cases. Note that I am much more understanding about extenuating circumstances if you communicate with me before the due date and if you are an active student in the class who regularly meets the posted deadlines for your assignments.

**Eastfield College Email Policy**

Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account* for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. I cannot communicate with you about grades via email unless you are using a DCCCD account. If you do not have a DCCCD account and wish to discuss your grade, you will need to contact me via telephone or set up an appointment to meet on campus.

*For information on setting up a DCCCD student email account, go to: [http://www.dcccd.edu/SS/OnlineSvs/Pages/MSOffice.aspx](http://www.dcccd.edu/SS/OnlineSvs/Pages/MSOffice.aspx).
You may email the instructor through your DCCCD account or through eCampus by clicking on the Send Email option under Tools. DO NOT send messages through Course Messages because it does not send me a notification when you do.

Certification Information
You must attend and participate in your on-campus or online course(s) in order to receive federal financial aid. Your instructor is required by law to validate your attendance in any course in order for you to receive financial aid. In an online course, simply logging in is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your online class and are engaged in an academic-related activity. Failure to do so by the deadline date could affect your financial aid, if you receive any.

Withdrawing from the Class
If you are considering dropping this class, please contact me immediately. Many times, there might be a better alternative than dropping a class. If we cannot find a more satisfactory solution, then it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to withdraw formally from the course. Failure to drop or withdraw officially from a course will result in you receiving no credit for any remaining assignments and will like result in a failing grade for the course. For more information, please follow this link: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/ari/Drop.asp

Stop Before You Drop
Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a "W". Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges.

Institutional Policies and Services
Institutional policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link: https://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/au/fastfacts/legal/pages/policies-for-syllabi.aspx

Academic Honesty
Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published here: https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/CollegePolicies/code.cfm?loc=EFC. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and collusion.

* Cheating includes copying from another student’s work, using unauthorized materials, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an unadministered test, and substituting for another person to take a test or complete an assignment.

* Plagiarism involves partially or entirely copying an author’s sentences or words and presenting it as your own work in a paper, quiz, blog, or discussion post. You cannot mix the author’s words with your own or “plug” your synonyms into the author’s sentence structure. The author’s words, phrases and sentences must be put in your words, in your style of writing. When you do this, you are demonstrating understanding and comprehension. If you summarize, paraphrase or directly quote from an author, you must use quotation marks
and the appropriate documentation because the ‘idea(s)’ still belong to the author. Simply citing a source is not enough when taking information word for word from another source.

*Collusion* is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements.

**Plagiarism/Charting/Collusion Penalties**
If plagiarism, cheating, or collusion is committed, it will result in a zero on the assignment or test upon the first offense. Second and subsequent offenses may result in other penalties under the college's Code of Student Conduct.

**Obtaining Final Course Grades**
Final Grade Reports are not mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report.

**Online Learning Conduct and Responsibility**
Each student should follow the DCCCD’s policies, procedures, and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. **This class includes discussion about sensitive subjects** including race, gender, violence, and sexual content in the media, and it is important that all students respect their classmates’ opinions.

The instructor reserves the right to amend this schedule as necessary. Field Trips will be announced in class.

**COMM 1316-41001 - News Photography I**
Instructor: Kael Alford
kaelalford@dcccd.edu
845-321-3496

**Spring 2019 - Course Schedule**

**Bring camera, memory card and charged camera batteries to all classes unless indicated otherwise.**

**Week 1 – February 4**
*Lecture:* Intro to course and instructor, equipment guidelines and basic camera function.
*In Class Exercise:* Using your camera, exposure and focus, metering light.
*Take home exercise:* Exposure/Depth of field/Camera Simulator. Bring camera, camera memory card, charged battery, hard drive/memory stick to next class (and all classes unless otherwise indicated).

**Week 2 – February 11**
*Due Take Home Exercise:* Review take home exercise/Review camera controls. Bring cameras, external hard drive and photos made during our last class on memory card.
*Lecture:* Portraits and news values - what makes a great portrait? Camera settings, essentials of lighting and framing natural light portraits and relationships to people (subjects).
*In class exercise:* Using Window light, metering, exposure. How to download, re-name, caption, and submit on Google Drive.
Assignment 1: Window light portrait.

Week 3 – February 18
Due Assignment 1: Critique Window Light Portraits.
Lecture: Basics of graphics and composition.
In class exercise: Photoshop and RAW files - basic post production techniques, white balance, tonal range and basic post-production. Resizing/saving photo formats.
Assignment 2: Graphics and composition – Photograph in a visually rich environment with attention to composition, color, graphics, motion. Submit on Google Drive.

Week 4 – February 25
Due Assignment 2: Critique of Graphics and Composition
Lecture: What makes a great event photo?: Using white balance, stopping motion and finding the “decisive moment”.
In class camera exercise: using light indoors/outdoors (natural and artificial), white balance, metering, stopping motion, basics of framing.
Assignment 3: Compose/focus/expose a photograph that tell the story of an event on or off campus, caption, resize, and submit to Google Drive.

Week 5 – March 4
Due Assignment 3: Critique of Event Photos.
In Class Exercise: Using Aperture/Shutter priority, auto focus, longer lenses, panning.
Assignment 4: Photograph an active situation such as sports or a moving performance.

Week 6 – March 11 No Class - Spring Break (through March 15)

Week 7 – March 18
Due Assignment 4: Critique of Sports, Performance and Action.
In-Class Midterm Review
Assignment: Study for Midterm Exam

Week 8 – March 25
MIDTERM EXAM on camera function/technique
Lecture: The Environmental Portrait (including the environmental portrait series) and caption writing.
In class exercise: Environmental portraits on campus and caption writing.
Assignment 5: Environmental Portrait in the world beyond campus with a great caption!

Week 9 – April 1
Midterm Exam Grading in Class (optional)
Due Assignment 5: Critique of Environmental Portrait.
Lecture: The history of long form visual journalism: How have photographers identified and created newsworthy photo essays? The shifting rules of engagement from historical to current practitioners and where to see great photojournalism online and in print.
Assignment: Final Project part 1, due April 22 (week 11)
Locate a photo essay that inspires you by a professional photojournalist, identify the characteristics and stylistic approach of the work and evaluate its effectiveness. Include a link or printed copy of that photo essay to share with the class. Also make a proposal for your own final project photo essay and submit 5 strong photographs toward your proposal idea.
Submit printed copy of your essay and upload 5 of your own photos toward you final project to Google drive by April 22nd.

Week 10 – April 8
Lecture: Types of contemporary long form photo narratives, day in the life, essays and photo series. Considering ethics, diversity and sensitivity in approaching photography subjects.
Questions to keep in mind: Is it newsworthy? How does your story tie into a broader narrative? Discussion of student photos story ideas.

**Assignment: Final project part 1 due April 22nd**

**Week 11 – April 22**

**Due Final Project part 1:** Student presentations on evaluation of a photo essay, photo story proposal and 5 initial photographs from final project.

Lecture: Writing story summaries and captions for a photo series.

**Assignment: Final Project Part 2** - work on final project, submit minimum of 10, strong new photos.

**Week 12 – April 29**

**Due Final Project part 2:** Critique of photo stories in progress.

*Lecture/ In Class exercise:* Sequencing Photographs

**Assignment: Final Project part 3** - bring all of work on final project including at least 10 strong, new images on external hard drives to next class.

**Week 13 – May 6**

Project Editing Workshop

**Due Final Project part 3:** Bring all of photos from final project to this last editing workshop for one on one editing work with instructor.

**Assignment:** Final Photo Project with summary and captions due May 13.

**Week 14 – May 13**

Final Exam/Critique of Final Projects

Submit print-ready, edited, sequenced, captioned final project with story summary for final critique.

*Class meets at normal time for the Final Exam period unless otherwise indicated by instructor.*