



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore



**Franklin University Switzerland - Lugano  
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan  
Forum-Nexus Program  
Course Syllabus**

**Photojournalism**

**Course Description**

Photojournalism is a genre of photography that incorporates creative and journalistic elements. Photos and images with a photojournalistic context can serve a variety of purposes, and photojournalism continues to change and evolve as the world becomes more connected. While traveling throughout Europe, students will have the opportunity to study photojournalism in several countries, as well as identify their own moments to capture through photographs to tell a story or show witness to an event. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a thematic overview of the history and development of photojournalism and its contemporary nature. Students will gain an understanding of major theoretical, conceptual, and practical issues confronting photographers in the field today, as well as practice acting as a photojournalist in Europe.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the basic principles of photojournalism, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand what photojournalism is and what it is not
2. Identify key publications and outlets for photojournalists
3. Learn about the history and technological developments in photojournalism
4. Explore photojournalism as storytelling
5. Become familiar with key photojournalistic moments in several countries in Europe
6. Elaborate on the ethical challenges and considerations of photojournalism
7. Understand aesthetic principles of photojournalism
8. Consider the social responsibility of photojournalists
9. Reflect on the balance of creativity and journalistic responsibility for photojournalists
10. Gain experience capturing the essence of a moment through photography
11. Reflect on the photojournalist experience

**Course Requirements**

This course requires independent study, experimentation, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS Supervising Professor(s) regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a final exam, and three assignments.

Students are also required to participate in a minimum of three Forum-Nexus professional visits and three cultural visits. Students may also pursue individual visits to companies and organizations as part of their independent study.

### **Assignment #1 – About Photojournalism Essay (minimum length: 1,500 words)**

- Develop an essay answering the following questions:
  - What is photojournalism?
  - What makes it different from photography or journalism alone?
  - What is a photojournalist?
  - What types of publications or outlets are meant for photojournalism?
  - What “role” would you identify most with as a photojournalist? Why?
  - Explain a major historical event/occurrence in the development of photojournalism in one of the cities visited during the summer.

### **Assignment #2 – Photojournalism Today Reflection (minimum length: 1,500 words)**

- Identify a significant photojournalistic photo and moment in each of the countries below (preferably in a city you visit during the summer) and reflect on the photo. Include the photo in your document.
  - Spain
  - Italy
  - France
  - The Netherlands
  - Greece
- Explain the photo, when it was taken, by whom, where it first appeared, and why it was significant. Provide any historical or important factors and influences.
- Share your initial reactions to the photo. What did it make you think/feel?
- If possible, visit the site where the photo was taken and compare the place to what the original photo shows (try and take a similar photo, with your own style and highlighting the passage of time). If it is not possible to visit the place, go online and learn how the place has changed, either related to the original event or by other factors. Elaborate on your findings and any significant details related to the photo.

### **Assignment #3 – Practicing Photojournalism (minimum length: 1000 words)**

- Using your camera, capture 3 separate moments that each tells a story, preferably in different cities/countries and related to very different environments and/or situations. Edit the photos to the best of your ability.
- Create a document to share your photos. Reflect on the following for each photo:
  - What attracted you to that moment? What made you capture it?
  - What is the story you are trying to tell/what are you attempting to show witness to?
  - What do you want your audience to think/feel as a result of seeing your image?
  - What publication would be ideal for your image to appear in? Why?

### **Presentation**

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:

- Summary of your goals and objectives
- Recap of photojournalism
- Highlight 3 of your photographs
  - Show the images before and after editing
  - Add a caption to each
  - Tell the story behind each photo

- Reflection on what you've learned through the course

### **Required Equipment**

Students may choose any camera, as long as it has the option of choosing shutter-speed and aperture manually. Most laptops have a built-in editing software, but students may download or purchase software.

### **Required Reading**

#### **Understanding Photojournalism**

by Jennifer Good and Paul Lowe

Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017

(Kindle version recommended)

### **Components of Final Grade**

Final Exam	40%
Assignment #1	15%
Assignment #2	15%
Assignment #3	15%
Presentation	15%

### **Grading Scale**

93-100 %	A
90-92.9 %	A-
87-89.9 %	B+
83-86.9 %	B
80-82.9 %	B-
77-79.9 %	C+
73-76.9 %	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9 %	D+
63-66.9 %	D
60-62.9 %	D-
Below 60 %	F

### **Course Outline**

#### **Module 1: What is Photojournalism?**

- Historical and critical context
- Perceived cultural associations
- The relationship between theory and practice
- The importance of visual literacy for the photographer and the viewer

#### **Module 2: History and Development of Photojournalism**

- Key historical aspects of photojournalism's development
- Technological factors
- Economics factors

#### **Module 3: The Single Image and the Photostory**

- The photostory format
- The relationship between words and photographs
- Transformations in the digital age

#### **Module 4: Photojournalism Today**

- The ongoing evolution of photographic methods and technologies
- Business and distribution models

#### **Module 5: Power and Representation**

- The power of photojournalism to represent people
- Social and ethical responsibility for photographers

#### **Module 6: Ethics**

- The ethics of manipulation
- The ethics of representing graphic violence

#### **Module 7: Aesthetics**

- The relationship between content and form

#### **Module 8: A Network of Trusted Witnesses**

- Balancing creativity with journalistic commitment
- Conclusions

#### **Schedule of Classes and Visits**

The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at [www.forum-nexus.com/schedules](http://www.forum-nexus.com/schedules).

#### **Academic Integrity**

The Forum-Nexus program places a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.