Course Syllabus

JOUR 492-SIS
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 Coordinator regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a midterm exam, a final exam, and four assignments.

Assignment #1 – About Photojournalism Essay (minimum length: 1,000 words)

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

Assignment #2 – Photographic Essay: Barcelona

• Create a photographic essay highlighting a current issue or event in Barcelona
  o Identify a current issue affecting Barcelona
    ▪ For example: Catalan separatism
  o Learn more about your selected issue by performing research and interviewing locals
  o Capture the issue/story that you want to tell with photographs
    ▪ Consider a variety of shot types and angles
    ▪ Edit your photos to best tell the story of your selected issue
  o Begin your essay with a short paragraph introducing the issue or event
  o Include at least 5 photos as well as a caption for each
  o End your essay with a paragraph reflecting on your experience completing this project

Assignment #3 – Photographic Essay: Paris

• Create a photographic essay highlighting a current issue or event in Paris
  o Identify a current issue affecting Paris
    ▪ For example: Immigration
  o Learn more about your selected issue by performing research and interviewing locals
  o Capture the issue/story that you want to tell with photographs
    ▪ Consider a variety of shot types and angles
    ▪ Edit your photos to best tell the story of your selected issue
  o Begin your essay with a short paragraph introducing the issue or event
  o Include at least 5 photos as well as a caption for each
  o End your essay with a paragraph reflecting on your experience completing this project

Assignment #4 – Photographic Essay: Italy

• Create a photographic essay highlighting a current issue or event in Italy
  o Identify a current issue affecting Italy and/or Milan or Rome in particular
    ▪ For example: Overtourism
  o Learn more about your selected issue by performing research and interviewing locals
  o Capture the issue/story that you want to tell with photographs
    ▪ Consider a variety of shot types and angles
    ▪ Edit your photos to best tell the story of your selected issue
  o Begin your essay with a short paragraph introducing the issue or event
  o Include at least 5 photos as well as a caption for each
  o End your essay with a paragraph reflecting on your experience completing this project
Portfolio Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study and presenting your photojournalism portfolio.

Required components include:

- Provide a summary of your goals and objectives
- Recap what you’ve learned about photojournalism
- Present each of your three photographic essays
  - Explain the issue that you covered, how you learned more about the issue through research and interviews, and how you captured it through photography
  - Share any technical considerations – how you chose to edit the photos, why you selected particular shots, etc.
- Reflection on what you’ve learned through the SIS 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

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Assignment #1</td>
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<td>Assignment #2</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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Grading Scale

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<td>D-</td>
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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.

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place 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.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/31 – 7/3</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pre-Program Preparation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Become familiar with the syllabus, identify additional readings, begin readings and research</td>
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<td>7/4</td>
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<td>7/4 – 7/8</td>
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