

Photography for Reporting Texas Syllabus

MWF 10-11am

Instructors:

Eli Reed - elireed@mac.com; (512) 626-5259

Teaching Assistant:

Shelby Knowles - shelbyknowles@gmail.com

Objectives:

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to challenge and deepen their traditional news photography skills in collaboration with Reporting Texas reporters. We will also require each student to research, pitch and complete two personal projects that develop your personal style and storytelling ability. All students will work on providing strong visuals for Reporting Texas' website and collaborate with reporters in the accompanying Reporting Texas class.

This class meets Monday and Wednesday, 10-11 am. Each Friday, our photo class will join the reporters of Reporting Texas. Attendance will be taken each class and will count toward 10% of your final grade. Attending Friday's group class will be especially important, since this will give you an opportunity to collaborate with reporters to make the best visuals possible for stories.

Grading:

In photojournalism, deadlines are everything. If you miss a deadline in the real world, it is very likely you will never be hired again by a publication. We will hold the same standard in this class. Assignments must be uploaded before their deadline or you will not receive credit. Similarly, photos submitted without captions in the real world is unacceptable. If you submit photos that lack a complete AP Style caption, you will not receive credit for the entire package. Each student must complete **at least 5 photo packages** for Reporting Texas, class assignments and two personal projects.

Student grades will be based on the following:

- 10% Attendance
- 10% Participation/Critique
- 20% class assignments (completion grade)
- 30% Photo packages with complete captions that are assigned from the Reporting Texas photo editor (completion)
- 30% Personal photo projects (15% each package)

Expectations:

- Working understanding of basic photographic techniques such as shutter speed, aperture, ISO, etc.
- Working understanding of basic DSLR controls and functions
- Ability to incorporate class critique and feedback into your assignments to show visible improvement on a week-to-week basis
- Ability to collaborate with reporters to create a complete journalistic online package

- Ability to research, pitch and complete a long-form visual story
- Effective editing that creates a visual narrative
- Ability to gather information and write basic AP Style captions for each photo you submit

Mondays: We will review your work. This can be from your personal project, class assignments or photos taken for Reporting Texas. Every week this should be new work!

Wednesdays: We will review and discuss current award winning photojournalism work or ethical questions as they relate to our class. This will also be a time where we will invite guest speakers, answer technical camera/software questions or work on class pitching exercises.

Fridays: We will meet with the reporters in the accompanying Reporting Texas class. This is a crucial time to brainstorm with them ideas of how to best visually represent the story

Assignment Due Dates: (*very much subject to change*)

- Week 1, Jan 15: Introduction
- Week 2, Jan 22:
 - Monday: Bring in 20 photos
 - Wednesday: Discuss undesirable assignments
- Week 3, Jan 29: At least 1 class assignment completed
- Week 4, Feb 5:
- Week 5, Feb 12: At least 2 class assignments completed
- Week 6, Feb 19:
- Week 7, Feb 26: At least 3 class assignments completed
- Week 8, March 5: First project due
- Week 9, March 12: SPRING BREAK
- Week 10, March 19: At least 4 class assignments completed
- Week 11, March 26:
- Week 12, April 2: At least 5 class assignments completed
- Week 13, April 9:
- Week 14, April 16: At least 6 class assignments completed
- Week 15, April 23: At least 7 class assignments completed
- Week 16, April 30: Last project due
- **Last day: May 4, all work must be uploaded**

Class Assignments:

While on assignment, whether for a class or an employer, a variety of scenarios will arise. Sometimes a technical challenge, other times it will be a visual challenge. In this class, we will be mimicking those real life situations, in a controlled and lower pressure environment. Some of the assignments are specific, other are broad topics — both of which can be difficult to photograph. Throughout the semester, you will be photographing each of these situations:

1. Protests/Rally
2. Presentation/Speaker at a podium
3. Buildings and/or Statues
4. Roads/Highways/Tolls (be safe, dont photograph and drive)

5. Voting (March 6th is statewide races)
6. Technology
7. Gentrification
8. Sensitive subjects needing to be anonymous
9. Portraits in undesirable locations
10. Mystery assignment, to be determined

Uploading:

We will be using Google Drive to upload and review photos. Please see the very detailed instructions on Canvas course website. Failure to follow these directions will result in the assignment being rejected.

Class Policies and University Procedures:

Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time before or after the absence.

Medical Emergency and Bereavement

With documentation, the only reasons for which a student may receive an excused absence. Please contact me immediately to let me know if you are seriously ill and/or must miss class for family bereavement. Do not wait to contact me. Let me know as soon as the situation arises and bring documentary evidence of your situation as soon as possible. You will need to make arrangements to make up missed work and discussion is crucial.

University Policies

Q Drop Policy

If you wish to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>

Student Accommodations

Students with a documented disability may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/about/>

Please request a meeting the first week of class to discuss any accommodations you will need.

Please notify me as soon as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible to you.

Please notify me if any of the physical space is difficult for you to navigate.

Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." This means that work you produce on assignments, tests and

exams is all your own work, unless it is assigned as group work. I will make it clear for each test, exam or assignment whether collaboration is encouraged or not.

Always cite your sources. If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must make that clear otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty Policy which can be found at the following web address: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

University Resources for Students

The university has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning, use these to help you succeed in your classes.

The Sanger Learning Center

Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the Sanger Learning Center each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/slc> or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT student, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance we provide is intended to foster students' resourcefulness and self-reliance. <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Counseling and Mental Health Center

The Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) provides counseling, psychiatric, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate students' academic and life goals and enhance their personal growth and well-being. <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

Student Emergency Services - <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>

ITS Need help with technology? - <http://www.utexas.edu/its/>

Libraries

Need help searching for information? <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/>

Canvas

Canvas help is available 24/7 at <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/633028/pages/student-tutorials>

Important Safety Information

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

Evacuation Information

(add any that are particular to your building) The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when an alarm or alert is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside, unless told otherwise by an official representative.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions

by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency