

# **Advanced Visual Journalism: Photo J333G**

Professor Eli Reed

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**Mon/Wed 12:00 - 1:30pm BMC 3.210**

**Mon/Wed Lab 1:30 -3:00pm BMC 3.210** (Possible changes in lab times. Will be discussed in 1<sup>st</sup> class.)

Office hours - **Tuesday**, By appointment

(Set hours but I have an open door policy)

**1:00 to 02:30pm M - W**

**10:00 to 11:30am Tuesday**

**Fall Semester 2015**

**Class Assignments** will be returned in a timely manner. (Mostly within one week of receiving assignment.)

## **SYLLABUS: Course Description**

This syllabus should be viewed simply as a guide to this semester. A very serious guide as in – there will be occasional sudden changes in the schedule at times that are part of the learning curve.

**Method:** Regarding what is expected of students in this class --

Today's photojournalist needs to be able to stand out and above the mass of would be photojournalists who have not learned to tell stories with their cameras.

There are quite a few ways to accomplish this and this class is designed to help you learn how to do this and at the same time place your personal imprint on the work that you want to produce. In today's world, everyone thinks that they are a great photographer because of cameras that do the technical side pretty well but smart cameras are not always smart and they do not teach you how to get close to your subjects and create meaningful and quality work. One of the many things that you will learn is how to rid yourself of the fears that prevent you from making intelligent choices within the sphere of your work. Patience and understanding goes a long way in helping the photographer go beyond the obvious.

A successful photographer needs to develop personal qualities that connect aesthetic value and clear crisp communication. The ability and the "PERSONAL EYE", matter. These personal POV's are the shot, the gesture, the story, the historic story telling visual. How one does that, will take the photographer on his and her journey.

Deadlines will be listed in a accompanying course schedule. Will be announced when each assignment is given. Late assignments will be accepted only in cases of extreme personal hardship and with prior approval from the instructor. In such cases, you will have one week to complete the work with my discretion. This is not an opportunity to barter. Late work will not be accepted without written approval from the

instructor.

## **THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO PASS PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES ON TO THE STUDENT:**

The techniques are used by newspapers, magazines, and on-line. Photographers document and publish professional quality photographs of the personalities, relationships, events and scenes that inhabit and define our world.

You will have some assignments with the online publication, 'Reporting Texas' which will give you opportunities toward making publishable images that will mean by semester's end, you will have a serious portfolio of strong images.

## **GRADING**

**EACH STUDENT WILL MAINTAIN:** A journal notebook that shall include the following:

- 1) Lecture notes on assigned readings
- 3) Project outlines for each assignment
- 4) Captions for all photos
- 5) Assignment Journals will be submitted for evaluation and graded during the semester at various times.

(Twenty percent toward final grade)

Assignment Completion:

(Twenty per cent toward final grade)

Collective Project work over course of the semester (Prints delivered in portfolio book form with corrected color and

captions with a one page preface at project end:

(Forty percent toward final grade)

Contest participation (COPY, POY, World Press, etc.), and photography journal files:

(Twenty per cent toward final grade)

Two absences are allowed during the semester. Any more than that and grades will be adversely affected.

**THOUGHTFULNESS, INSIGHT AND CLARITY OF EXPRESSION** ..... are essential traits for all who work with media. Mastery of Photographic Reporting and Storytelling concepts should make your professional life much richer and more productive, whatever your ambitions may be regarding the pursuit of a professional career in communications.

**POINTS TO REMEMBER:** Valuable information is presented during critiques. Cultivate the habit of writing down points that are emphasized by the instructor that will aid retention whether or not you ever consult your notes.

Often people with little or no prior photo experience make the most imaginative photos. In photojournalism, as in most areas of life, curiosity and enthusiasm are the keys that unlock the richest opportunities. Students with considerable prior photo experience may tend to imitate what they have seen others do and may make conventional photos.

Duplicating pictures you've seen before can be instructive, like practicing musical scales. However, to become a virtuoso, seek inspiration in your own distinctive, personal experiences. Listen and learn to trust your own instincts at the right moments

Students are expected to keep and maintain a digital file of their own outstanding images during the semester for possible contest entries and as reference in their continuing body of work. Students are encouraged to have a continuing dialogue with the professor during the semester in order to keep on point as far as where they are regarding grades.

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## **Recommended Reading**

Dark Odyssey, Philip Jones Griffiths, Aperture

W. Eugene Smith, Shadows and Substance, McGraw Hill

Requiem, Horst Faas and Tim Page, Random House

Deeds of War, James Nachtwey, Thames and Hudson

Son of Bitch, Elliot Erwitt, Viking Press

California Trip, Dennis Stock

Leonard Freed, Photographs 1954-1990, Norton

Circus Days, Jill Freedman, Harmony

East 100th Street, Bruce Davidson

Koudelka/Gypsies/Aperture

Diane Arbus, Aperture

Under A Grudging Sun, Alex Webb

I, Will McBride, Konemann

American We, Eugene Richards, Aperture

Choice of Weapons, Gordon Parks (Any of his books)

Nicaragua, Susan Meiselas, Pantheon

Henri Cartier Bresson Photographer, New York Graphic Society

Helen Levitt, San Francisco Museum of Art

Homecoming, Don McCullin, St. Martin Press Inc., 175 Fifth Avenue

The Sweet Flypaper of Life, Roy DeCarava, Howard

Mary Ellen Mark, Twenty Five Years,

Magnum Stories, Phaidon

The Americans, Robert Frank, Aperture

Terra, Sebastio Salgado, Phaidon

Eyelids of Morning, Peter Beard & Alistair Graham, Chronicle Books

Moments in Time, Dirck Halstead, Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

**(A number of these books are out of print but there is enough out there well worth checking out)**

## **Class Schedule**

**ALL DIGITAL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE:**

**AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.**

**Aug 26** - Course Introduction overview discussion including your responsibilities for the semester. Every picture has a role in the different kinds of photographic narrative. Work of Henri Cartier-Bresson and instructor viewed.

**Aug 28**

**Assignment:** BMC 3.208, Reporting Texas preliminary Lab meeting (To be discussed on Aug 26)

**Sep 31** - Photography from NYTimes Lens Blog and LA Times Framework and others to be viewed and discussed.

**Assignment Given:** One page essay personal assessment of photo reportage viewed on websites. **DUE Sep 9**

**Sep 2** - Work of W. Eugene Smith, Annie Leibovitz, and others will be discussed. Discussion of assignments for Reporting Texas and proper captioning.

**Sep 9** - 20/20 Presentation of 10 of your photographs via flash drive or print in which you will have 20 seconds per photograph to discuss your work so that the core of what you do can be addressed quickly and shared with fellow classmates.

**Assignment Given:** 'One moment of the world in five photographs. **Due Sep 16**

**Sep 14** – Discussion of photojournalism in the real world.

**Assignment Given:** Shoot the essay of changing economy in Austin without cliches. Shoot multimedia presentation of at least 20 photographs inside the piece. **DUE Sep 30.**

**Sep 16** - Presentation and discussion of 'One moment of the

world' assignment is **Due**. Critique: photographs.

**Sep 21** - Work of German photographer, August Sander presentation and lecture with comparative lecture regarding work by other photographers of note.

**Assignment is in two parts:** Create four B/W portraits in the same style of his work. The second part of the assignment is to create 4 modern contemporary portraits in color in the style of August Sander using normal a focal length. Total of 8 photographs. **Due Sep 28**

**Sep 23 – Class** Visit on the “**Drag**” on Guadalupe and shoot for 40 minutes as a group. Each participant has to make 7 (seven) photographs of things happening with simplistic portraits of possible subject staring straight into the camera lens.

**Assignment Given:** Make selection from shoot. **DUE Sep 30**

**Sep 28 – Due** - There are four portraits in available light in B/W in style of August Sander and four contemporary modern day color portraits using a normal focal length. Within the eight, one humorous photograph is required. Discussion and critique

**Sep 30 – Due** There are 7 (seven) photographs of things happening on the “**Drag**” without simplistic portraits of possible subjects staring straight into the camera lens. Discussion and critique.

**Oct 5** - Economy assignment due discussion and critique.

**Oct 7** – Lecture regarding looking at significant photographic



images through 'prospective in depth projects' that have had a strong journalistic and societal impact.

**Assignment Given:** Make one photograph toward finding the larger story (Planned discovery). Bring some of your previous work in the form of contact sheets and/or proof prints for discussion. **DUE Oct 12.**

**Oct 14** - Discussion of the American 'Family'

**Assignment Given:** Make at least five photographs of an American Family. Write short statement that tells us about this particular family and what makes them interesting to us. You can make a slide presentation for extra credit with you or someone of your choice reading the statement as the images advance/or music playing in the presentation that fits your particular family. (Google "An American Family, Loud Family" documentary. Perhaps the first ever reality television). **DUE Oct 21**

**Oct 19** – Due: Assignment on making one photograph that tells a larger story. Discussion and critique.

**Oct 21** - Due: American Family portrait: Discussion and critique.

**Oct 26** - Long form photographic essays on the economy are due with critique and discussion during class.

**Oct 28** – Viewing of Film documentary (America's Children, Poorest in the land of Plenty) with strong use of still photographs. Possible: Fictional political film segment (Tanner 88, HBO Films) **Assignment Given:** One page commentary on each of the two films. **DUE Oct 28**

**Nov 2**– Television documentary commentary is due. Lecture and discussion will deal with different kinds of short photographic essays. Essays will be newspaper stories about a senior citizen and her farm, professional wrestling, etc.... Every picture tells a story. Discussion of larger story in one photograph.

**Nov 4** - Finding the internal core inside of the portrait.

**Assignment:** Portrait internal view of a person assignment. Set your camera to **normal focal length** and photograph the edge of light where things change.. **DUE Nov 11**

**Nov 9** - Discussion of Elliot Erwitt work. Photographic photos using humor, leave the pies at home.

**Assignment:** Three interestingly funny pictures. The grade depends on the successful depth of your sense of humor.  
Due Nov 16

**Nov 11 – Due:** Discuss and critique “portrait: internal view” assignment.

**Nov 16 – Due:** Elliot Erwitt photos. Discussion of: Life Magazine classic photographic essays.

**Assignment:** Simulation of difficulties of overseas work. Due Nov 23.

**Nov 18** - Finding the assigned story and ‘making it yours’ discussion. Walking tour/Zen photographs on the hunt.

**Assignment Given:** Bring various elements together into one photograph. 3 normal, 3 “Zen” photos. Shoot as few frames as possible. Total 6 photographs.

**Nov 23 - Due** overseas assignment. Look at award winning photographs; what distinguishes them to contest judges, what is to be learned from them and what kind of impact they bring to job hunting.

**Nov 25** - Beginning of movie, "Once Upon a Time in the West." Discussion: work of William Allard. Lecture and discuss about making interesting photographs out of nothing. Equipment use: Paring down to essentials for creative seeing.

**Assignment:** Bring photographs taken during semester for print portfolio production final. Due: Dec 30

**Dec 30 – Due:** PROCESS of choosing images from semester and designing the Mac Photo/Portfolio book final due **Dec 2**.

**Dec 2 - Due:** Twenty photographs including seven to ten photographs in a picture story within the twenty. ALL PHOTOGRAPHS MUST HAVE CAPTIONS!

Grade points are subtracted with each failure to provide proper captions and there will be no exception to this rule. Finished Final Class portfolio, A time of celebration for your accomplishment.

**All work done in this class must be original work done by you for this class alone. The goal is creation of images and text that are journalistically sound but represent your personal vision and voice. For information on academic integrity and plagiarism, see <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/academicintegrity>**

## **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

## **University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

## **Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty**

The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor. By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to these guidelines and must adhere to them. Scholastic dishonesty damages both the student's learning experience and readiness for the future demands of a work-career. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University.

For information on academic integrity and plagiarism, see [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).

### **Documented Disability Statement**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

### **Students with Disabilities**

Please notify your instructor of any modification/adaptation you may require to accommodate a disability-related need. You will be requested to provide documentation to the Dean of Student's Office in order that the most appropriate accommodations can be determined. Specialized services are available on campus through Services for Students with Disabilities.

<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

### **Attendance University accepted exceptions**

Attendance is part of the grade for this course. Only medical emergencies authenticated with a doctor's note or family bereavement confirmed by a signed letter from one of your parents are excusable absences.

Family reunions or holiday travel are not excusable absences from this class.

If you will miss a class for reasons of religious or military observance you must let us know **WELL IN ADVANCE see UT policy below**, not the day before. You will still need to get assignments in a day before or after the due date. Plan ahead.

Based on prior experience, the recommendation is to save the two permitted absences for unanticipated circumstances, which may occur later in the semester. Each additional

absence (without medical documentation) will result in a two-point deduction from your final grade. Five or more unexcused absences may result in your automatic withdrawal (WA) from the class.

Attendance is essential on dates scheduled for special presentations. Otherwise, you are allowed two absences during the semester to cover situations that you judge to merit an excused absence, but that do not involve serious illness. I require no explanation, as it is your responsibility to decide what circumstances merit missing class. My responsibility is to apply course policy consistently without exception.

### **Religious Holy Days**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify your instructor 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, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time before or after the absence if you give the required advance notification.

### **Absence for military service**

In accordance with section 51.9111 of the Texas Education Code, a student is excused from attending classes or engaging in other required activities, including exams, if he or she is called to active military service of a reasonably brief duration. The maximum time for which the student may be excused has been defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "no more than 25 percent of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is currently enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service." The

student will be allowed a reasonable time after the absence to complete assignments and take exams. Policies affecting students who withdraw for military service are given above.

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi03-04/ch4/ch4g.html> - attendance

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### **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

### **Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

### **Q drop Policy**

The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6).

### **Resources for Learning & Life at UT Austin**

The University of Texas has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning.

The UT Learning Center: <http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/>

Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

Counseling & Mental Health Center: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>

Career Exploration Center:

<http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/>

Student Emergency Services:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency>

### Addition

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