MCM 250.001 – Photographic Journalism I – Fall 2017

Class meeting time and place
Section 001: 1 to 2:15 p.m. (MW) Boynton Building, Room 202

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Stephanie Fontenot
Phone: Office (936) 371-7973, Checkout (936) 468-1991, Dept. (936) 468-4001

Email: ballardsm@sfasu.edu (Subject line should state: MCM 250)
Department: Mass Communication
Faculty Office: Charles Bright Visitors Center located at 200 E. Main St. Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

Office Hours
I am available to meet between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Charles Bright Visitors Center located at 200 E. Main St. in downtown Nacogdoches outside of class hours. Please try and schedule an appointment to avoid conflicting times.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (FROM THE SFA GENERAL BULLETIN):
Study and practice of photography as a major of component of journalism. Emphasis on basic photography skills. Learn how words and visual work together tell a story while gaining proficiency in industry standard editing software. Incidental fee required.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOs):
1. Demonstrate the ability to write effectively across a variety of platforms appropriate to the discipline.
2. Gather, organize and analyze discipline-appropriate research and communicate information about it.
3. Understand the role of media in society.
4. Comprehend legal and ethical principles relating to media.
5. Demonstrate the application of media technology, terminology and techniques.

JOURNALISM CONCENTRATION (PLOs):
1. Demonstrate appropriate writing and editing skills across diverse multimedia platforms.
2. Gather, analyze, organize and synthesize information on contemporary topics to develop a news story.
3. Demonstrate the application of contemporary technology, terminology and techniques in the news gathering process.
4. Understand effective visual language and how to apply it to convey messages and enhance the communication process.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs):
1. Students will learn how photojournalists tell stories with pictures.
2. Students will learn the techniques required to take photographs of publishable quality.
3. Students will know how to write a caption for news photographs which includes the 5-Ws.
4. Students will understand how to crop and edit digital images using photo editing software.

TEXT AND SUPPLIES
- Flash drive for backups and transporting images

GRADING
Your grade will be based on four photo assignments, four in-class assignments and two photoshop tests:

- Photo assignment 1 = 100 points
- Photo assignment 2 = 100 points
- Photo assignment 3 = 150 points
- Photo assignment 4 = 150 points
- In-class assignment 1 = 50 points
- In-class assignment 2 = 50 points
- In-class assignment 3 = 50 points
- In-class assignment 4 = 50 points
- Photoshop test 1 = 100 points
- Photoshop test 2 = 100 points
- Final exam = 100 points
- **Course total points** = **1000 points.**

The following averages are needed to attain a grade of: **A=900 or higher, B=800 to 899, C=700 to 799, D=650 to 699, F=649 and below.**

ACADEMIC INTERGRITY POLICY (4.1)

Students in this class are expected to read and abide by the university policy on academic integrity. If a student is found in violation of this policy, he/she will be subject to receiving a failing grade for this course, and the violation will be reported to the proper university authorities.

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information including signing attendance sheets for another student, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work
of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of another into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (5.5)

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY (6.1)

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact SFA’s Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY (10.4)

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS CONDUCT

Cell phones must be turned off during class. Students using their cell phones during class will have them collected by the instructor. Phones will be taken to the SFA Judicial Office for student pickup. Class time is not a time to update your Facebook status, text your friend or study for another course. Rude behavior including talking during a lecture, leaving during a lecture,
making obnoxious comments and the use of the computer beyond course use are also prohibited. Violations will affect your grade.

Class WILL begin on time. Please be professional enough to be here and be on time. Three late arrivals will equal one absence. If you must miss a class, please inform me prior to the class period to be missed. You may call my office number at any time to inform me of your pending absence. You also may notify me by email. Do not assume you will be allowed to make up work missed during an excused or unexcused absence. It is the university policy to excuse students from attendance for certain reasons. Among these are absences related to health, family emergencies and student participation in university-sponsored events. Students with acceptable excuses will be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester or one week of a summer term. Students are responsible for providing satisfactory documentation for an excused absence. Such documentation may include forms verifying visitors to the Student Health Service, a statement from a private physician, or an official University listing of excused absences. **No make-ups for in-class assignments including excused absences.**

Absences from the course which equal or exceed 25% (on the seventh (7) absence) of the class meetings will result in automatic failure of the course. Missing 5-6 classes will result in a deduction of 100 point from your overall grade. If you have perfect attendance, you will be credited with a bonus of 20 points added to your overall grade.

**EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

Digital cameras and other miscellaneous equipment are available to check out for use on your photo assignments. You may use your own DSLR (digital single lens reflex) camera only if it is 6 megapixel or higher with manual controls. Canon and Nikon both have excellent entry DSLR cameras perfect for this course. If your camera has the following shooting modes, it will most likely work. Look for M, Tv, S modes. If unsure, bring your camera to class for inspection.

If you do use the university’s equipment, it must be checked in by the due date and time given. Failure to return equipment on time will result in a deduction of 10 points per day late on your overall course grade. Equipment out for one week or more will result in a deduction of your overall course grade by 100 pts. Each week. You are responsible for any and all equipment used and or checked out. If you lose, damage or destroy the equipment, you will be held responsible. The current market value of the equipment will be determined by the instructor and your university status will be delinquent until the amount is paid. To check out equipment, you must have a valid student ID.

**BOYNTON LAB SCHEDULE**

The Boynton lab will be available for weekly use. The lab schedule will be posted by the second week of the semester. Questions, comments and complaints are welcome and should be directed to Mrs. Fontenot during office hours.

**LAB FACILITY, COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS**

Food and/or drinks are not allowed in the lab due to the nature of the equipment. Please help us with this policy by being responsible with yourself first. Printing that is unrelated to your registered class (which uses Boynton 202 or 209 labs) may revoke all printing privileges.
Printing to the color printer requires approval and must be for specific class assignments. Lab assistants are available for general assistance. If you experience a problem with computer equipment, please note the problem in detail, computer used and report this information to the lab assistant.

PHOTO ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE POLICY

Any assignment that is not handed in by the due date and time is automatically given the grade “0.” Be sure you understand this. With most jobs, especially media related jobs, deadlines are generally inflexible. A missed deadline is a missed deadline, for whatever reason. This class adheres to professional standards; therefore, the date and time of the deadline are absolute. There are no grace periods.

ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND DUE DATES

This syllabus contains basic information and instructions for each assignment. It is your responsibility to follow these instructions carefully. Be prepared to receive additional instructions for each assignment in class. Questions are encouraged.

The due dates for each assignment are on the class schedule of this syllabus. They are due at the beginning of class for each given date. This means that all parts of the assignment are due before the start of class. Remember that if an assignment is not turned in, the assignment due will receive a grade of 0.

CHEATING, PLAGIARISM AND PIRATING

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Intentional and/or flagrant disregard of copyright infringement is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Penalties may include reprimand or no credit for the assignment or exam, of the paper/project, or make-up exam, or failure of the course. Collaborative study and research is encouraged, but all work turned in must be new and original. Use of old or dated original work is not allowed. Photos must be taken specifically for this course during this semester. Always check that the correct date is set in your camera before you shoot.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug. 28</td>
<td>Intro to course, syllabus, first-day questionnaire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Aug. 30</td>
<td>Lecture: Photojournalism – the history, the discipline and its importance in today’s world</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept. 4</td>
<td>Lecture: Basic camera controls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 6</td>
<td>Lecture: Basic camera controls continued (The essential settings) Assignment one intro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Sept. 11</td>
<td>Hands-on: Photographing, downloading and editing (Bring a camera today!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 13</td>
<td>Hands-on: Editing continued – Photoshop (Cropping, levels, resolution, framing)</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept. 18</td>
<td>In class assignment one – putting Photoshop skills to practice (50 points possible)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Sept. 20</td>
<td>Photo assignment one due (100 points possible) “Parts of things” Lecture: lenses</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept. 25</td>
<td>Lecture: Composition and lenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept. 27</td>
<td>Lecture: Approaching the scene - setting up your photograph Assignment 2 intro</td>
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<td>Monday, Oct. 2</td>
<td>Out-of-class photo project “Photos that speak”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 4</td>
<td>Out-of-class photo project “Photos that speak”</td>
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<td>Monday, Oct. 9</td>
<td>Photo assignment two due (100 pts possible) – “Shooting with control,” slideshow of PTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Oct. 11</td>
<td>In class assignment two (50 points possible) Camera control practice (Bring camera)</td>
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<td>Monday, Oct. 16</td>
<td>Lecture: Composing captions – the 5 W’s, intro to assignment three</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 18</td>
<td>In class assignment three (50 points possible) Making contact with sources (Bring camera)</td>
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<td>Monday, Oct. 23</td>
<td>Photoshop test one (50 points possible) (Mid-semester)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 25</td>
<td>Lecture: Photographing features (Last day to drop courses)</td>
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<td>Monday, Oct. 30</td>
<td>Photo assignment three due (100 pts possible) “Photos w/captions” Lecture: photo story</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 1</td>
<td>Lecture: The photo story continued, intro to assignment four</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov. 6</td>
<td>In class assignment 3 (50 points possible) Photo story one-pager (Bring camera)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 8</td>
<td>Lecture: The impact of a photojournalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Nov. 13</td>
<td>Photo assignment four due (100 points possible) “The Photo story” Lecture: Event photog.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Nov. 15</td>
<td>In class assignment four (50 points possible) – Photographing an event (Bring camera)</td>
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<td>Monday, Nov. 27</td>
<td>Lecture: Event recap, Photoshop refresh</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Nov. 29</td>
<td>Photoshop test two (150 points possible)</td>
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<td>Monday, Dec. 4</td>
<td>Lecture: Ethics of digital photography</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Dec. 6</td>
<td>Lecture: Wrapping things up, end-of-semester slideshow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Dec. 11</td>
<td>Beginning of final exams week (see final exam schedule)</td>
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