

Photojournalism I - Photojournalism I Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Sarah Nichols
ROOM NUMBER: C-2
OFFICE HOURS: M-F 7-7:40 and by appointment
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COURSE PAGE: whs.rocklinusd.org/cte
ACADEMIC UNITS: 5 units per semester
ACADEMIC CREDIT: Elective Credit

DESCRIPTION - Photojournalism is an introductory photo course in the Arts, Media and Entertainment pathway that exposes students to cutting-edge digital media for storytelling and production. Modeled after an authentic work environment, this course is project-based and highly collaborative. After the initial training period (Phase I and Phase II), which is similar to an internship program, students are graded based upon works produced in small groups. Students will learn all aspects of photography and photojournalism including (but not limited to) pre-production planning, photographing using effective camera techniques (composition, lighting, depth of field, etc.) and digital editing using Adobe Photoshop. Students will publish works online and in student media print and will review works in a whole class environment.

PURPOSE - This interactive, hands-on course will involve exposure to photography techniques and concepts as well as digital media production methods and industry-specific work flow through a variety of formats. In most cases, students will learn by doing and will have access to professional-quality digital SLR cameras, high-end editing software and a range of lenses. Daily activities range from shooting or editing photos to direct instruction from the teacher, online tutorials, guest speakers, field trips and professional resources. Students do not need any kind of photography or journalism experience or any of their own equipment. After successful completion of Photojournalism I, students have the opportunity to take a larger photography role in Whitney High Student Media by entering Publications Production/Design II class to have their work published in the yearbook, magazine and website, or they can expand their technical skills while gaining leadership experience in Photojournalism II, which has a service learning component and puts students in peer teaching situations with beginning photographers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES - By the end of this course, students will be able:

- Students will be prepared to enter the workforce in photography and photojournalism.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in industry technical standards.
- Students will be able to identify and explain photography career options and job skill requirements.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in industry-standard safety procedures.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in customer service skills.

COURSE TOPICS - The course will cover the following topics: Demonstrate basic level understanding of basic file management, Demonstrate basic level understanding of digital image editing (using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge), Demonstrate basic level understanding of use/application of digital image production equipment, Demonstrate proficiency with image quality and exposure (shutter speed, aperture, ISO), Demonstrate ability to work within a collaborative small student-led group, Demonstrate basic understanding of and application of the following production tasks/steps:

pre-production, production, post-production, publishing, and Demonstrate industry-specific business and entrepreneurial aspects such as promotion, marketing and social media for photography.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) ELEMENTS - The following information is directly related to this course and its designation as a CTE course on campus:

- INDUSTRY SECTOR: Media and Design Arts
- COURSE LEVEL: Introductory
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The advisory committee for this course meets annually. Additional meetings are held at the discretion of the instructor and/or district office.
- ARTICULATION INFORMATION: UC-approved
- OCCUPATIONS FOR IDENTIFIED PATHWAY: Pathway occupations organized by level of education and training required for workplace entry.
 - High School - Production assistant, freelance photographer
 - Post-secondary Training - Production manager, photo center/studio management
 - College/University - Multimedia journalist, Photo editor

GENERAL: Recorded grades will be available for review at any time on Schoology. Remember to keep all class items returned so that any discrepancies can be easily and fairly straightened out. Except in cases of actual error, semester grades are permanent.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES - Students may be required to purchase specific projects if they want to keep them and take them home. The list below provides information for the student regarding items they will be using in this course. Students may want to purchase items on this list if they are very interested in this course and/or pathway. Please see the instructor for specific information regarding supplies.

- Text: Get the Picture (Jostens) and Digital Photography Series by Scott Kelby
- Computer Programs and/or software: Adobe CC (Photoshop, Bridge) and Google Drive
- Supplies: Desktop computer (1:1) with applicable software installed and Canon DSLR cameras with a variety of lenses, SD cards, tripods, card readers and accessories

GRADING PLAN - Students' grades will be based on photo shoots, digital editing and file management, in-class labs and basic practice assessments such as worksheets, graphic organizers and quizzes. Effort and willingness to improve are the key factors in a student's overall performance. Students will have opportunities to get individualized feedback on each photo shoot and/or project and will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate improvement.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

- Respect others at all times.
- Respect the equipment, materials and work space. This means no food or drinks can be in the professional work environment. We will have designated times and places in the room for food/drinks to celebrate success.
- Adhere to all classroom procedures regarding equipment use, including checkin and checkout procedures.
- Meet deadlines consistently.

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, and more are welcome. However, your discretion in these matters is expected. Furthermore, no part of your grade will be based on anything other than your coursework and attendance. You are encouraged to take advantage of instructor office hours for help with coursework or anything else connected with the course and your progress.