COM 336 – Photojournalism *(Prerequisites: ENGL 102 and one History and Humanities GER 200 level course with a grade of C or higher):* Through hands-on photography and writing supervised by the instructor, students develop competencies in discovering and creating interdisciplinary stories using a variety of photographic techniques and writing methods. Special focus on creating photographic narratives, supported by prose. This course satisfies the three credit 300 GER in History and Humanities.

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COM 337 Photojournalism Syllabus
*—there is **no** textbook and **no** final in this class–*

Course Goals:

In this course you will learn to:

- Learn to view images analytically
- Practice photographic design
- Identify and develop a personal style

- Tell stories with words and images
- Use effective captioning techniques
- Combine visuals and narrative in informative essays

Assignments & Grading:

- **Attendance** is **required** and is **graded**: 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 18; 3 absences = 16; 4 absences = 14; 5 absences = 12; 6 absences = 10; 7 absences = 8; 8 or more = 0. If you are absent due to illness or other problems, email me *before* class.

- All grading will be done numerically (if an assignment is worth 10%, it will receive a grade from 1 to 10) which will be added at the end of the semester. Grades are not fully recorded in Canvas. Small assignments receive full credit after completion.

Shared Google Drive Folders

Inside the main folder for this class, "3 Photojournalism," there are folders for each assignment. Upload your work here.

Naming Conventions

Name your photos and files so they are easy to find. The best convention is lastname.firstname. If you are submitting multiple images that will be sequentially viewed, try: jones.joe.1, jones.joe.2, jones.joe.3.

Final Grades:

A = 91 – 100   B+ = 86 – 90   B = 80 – 85   C+ = 75 – 79   C = 70 – 74   D = 65 – 69   F = 0 – 64

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to follow the underlined academic code of integrity policy. Any student in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade, suspension, or dismissal. **In this class, use your own writing only.**

Assignment and Grade List

Assignment Name and Description	%
Class Participation – 0-1 absences = 20 (highest score); 2 absences = 18; 3 absences = 16; 4 absences = 14; 5 absences = 12; 6 absences = 10; 7 absences = 8; 8 or more = 0. If you must be absent, email me *before* class. **Purpose:** collaborative practice and analysis of photography takes place during class, so it is necessary to be there.	**20**
Five Best Photos – Choose five photos you have taken in the past and prepare a presentation in which you explain where, how and why you took them. **Purpose:** Starting to identify and develop your personal style, practicing presentation skills.	**5**
Where am I? – take three pictures of a place with no explicitly identifiable features. Using details from the photos, the class will guess where you are. **Purpose:** Focusing on details in photos, fun.	**2**
What is It? – take three close-up pictures of three objects with no explicitly identifiable features. Try to get the macro focus sharp. Using details from the photos, we will guess what each is. **Purpose:** Practicing macro photography; focusing on details in photos, fun.	**3**
A Day in the Life – Start by listing the basic actions you take every day. Take photos to illustrate some of those tasks. Create a slide show, 10-15 images, with a caption describing each. Upload to the class folder and to Canvas for grading. This will be presented in class (3-5 minutes). I will send you feedback on your camera quality in Canvas. **Purpose:** Photographing ordinary objects, practicing photographic design, using effective captioning.	**5***
Self-Portrait, Part 1 – Lighting and Angles – Indoors, at home, take a series of head shots with your face filling the frame. Take at least ten photos with different lighting (evenly lit, lit from each side, backlit, in low light) and from different angles (from above, slightly to the left, slightly to the right). We will show these in class. **Purpose:** start to identify the best settings and methods to get good photos of your face to use online.	**5**
Portrait of a Student (first draft) – You will be randomly assigned someone to work with. Create a photo essay about their life and activities at NJIT, including work and hobbies. Begin by interviewing them and writing down their answers. Collaborate with your partner to get or take photos. The first draft should be a **Word** document with a unique title, text describing the student, at least 5 photos, and a minimum of 400 words. Upload to Canvas for comments and grading. **Purpose:** Interviewing, collaboration (to take or get photos) and writing.	**10***

Assignment Name and Description	%
Group Photo Stories – in groups of 3-5, plan a story you can tell with twenty to thirty photos. Collaborate to take the photos and combine them into a slide show. This assignment will be presented in class. **Purpose:** Collaboration, planning, using photos to tell a story, fun.	**5**
Portrait of a Student (final draft) – Revise your essay to make changes suggested by my comments. Make sure the layout and spelling are ready to be viewed by others. Upload (in Word or PDF) to Canvas. **Purpose:** writing revision, layout, proofreading.	**5***
Self-Portrait, Part 2 – Class Closeups – In groups of 3, each take 5 (minimum) headshots of the two other group members. Look at the photos, decide which are best, and give them to that person. We will view these in class. **Purpose:** photographing others, getting photos of yourself from others.	**2**
Captioning Exercise with Peer Review– Follow the directions in Canvas. Submit three pictures with full captions in Canvas, following the format. You can use old/new photos, but they must be ones you have taken. 3 points for submission, 2 points for peer review. **Purpose:** Learning captioning conventions.	**5***
Self-Portrait, Part 3 – Preparing Profile Pictures – Using the results from the earlier self-portrait exercises, choose the best photos and prepare profile pictures (square or 3x4) for LinkedIn (formal) and Social Media (friendly). We will view these in class. **Purpose:** Creating effective self-portraits for online use.	**3**
Photo Essay – Choose a topic that interests you that you can photograph (art, architecture, a place, local sports, vintage clothing, etc.). Take photos of the topic and write about it. Combine the words and images into an article (~400 words). 7 photos are required and 5 must be your own. Submit the first draft (10 points) and the revised draft (5 points) in Canvas. **Purpose:** Planning, photography, writing, layout.	**10* / 5***
Favorite Photographer – Create a ten to twenty slide presentation on your favorite photographer. Be prepared to talk about their work history, sources of inspiration, style, and whether they make any money from their work. This will be shown in class (5-8 min.). **Purpose:** Researching professional photographers, viewing images analytically, career analysis, practicing presentation skills.	**5**
Commercial Advertisements – Create an advertisement for a product using your photo as the background image. Combine with text. **Purpose:** Designing advertisements using professional photos and text.	**5**

Assignment Name and Description	%
Best Photos Review Presentation – Create slide presentation with the five best photos you took during this semester. Be prepared to talk about how your personal style has developed (3-5 min.). **Purpose:** Identifying and developing a personal style, semester review.	**5**

Note: much of the work in this class is short assignments worth two to five points. Generally, you receive full credit upon completion but won't see the grade. Assignments with an asterisk (*) will receive detailed grades and comments from me in Canvas.

Course Schedule (subject to minor changes)

Tuesdays		Thursdays	
Date	**Class Activity**	**Date**	**Class Activity**
9/2	Go over syllabus; assign *Five Best Photos* presentation; introduce yourself photo	9/4	*Five Best Photos* presentation; demonstrate and assign *Where am I?*
9/9	*Where am I?*; demonstrate and assign *What is It?*	9/11	*What is it?*; demonstrate and assign *A Day in the Life*
9/16	*A Day in the Life* presentations (~13 per class)	9/18	*A Day in the Life* presentations
9/23	*Self-Portrait, Part 1* (lighting and angles); photographing Angles (in-class exercise)	9/25	Show examples and make teams for *Portrait of a Student*; start interviews
9/30	Word/Revision Demonstration; make groups for *Group Photo Stories*; start group work	10/2	**First draft *Portrait of a Student* due** Wellness Day, no class
10/7	Teamwork for *Portrait of a Student* (to get additional material if necessary) work in groups on *Group Photo Stories*	10/9	Present *Group Photo Stories*; Photographing Animals (in-class exercise)
10/14	**Final draft *Portrait of a Student* due**; *Self-Portrait Part 2*, in class; assign *Captioning Exercise*	10/16	Stranger Interview (in-class exercise)
10/21	***Captioning Exercise* due in Canvas**; Macros and Panoramas (in-class exercise)	10/23	Demonstrate and assign Home Slideshow; Infrastructure (in-class exercise)
10/28	Present Home Slideshow	10/30	Colors (in-class exercise)
11/4	Assign *Photo Essay*: look at articles from last semester; individual brainstorming	11/6	Demonstrate and assign *Favorite Photographer* presentations; assign *Self-Portrait, Part 3*; Shoes or Hats (in-class exercise)
11/11	Review *Photo Essay* assignment; view *Self-Portrait, Part 3* in class	11/13	**First draft *Photo Essay* due**; Inside of Things (in-class exercise)
11/18	*Favorite Photographer* presentations (9 per class)	11/20	*Favorite Photographer* presentations
11/25	*Favorite Photographer* presentations	11/27	**Thanksgiving**
12/2	**Final draft *Photo Essay* due**; demonstrate and assign *Commercial Advertisements* and *Best Photo Review; Reflections (in-class exercise)*	12/4	Building Lottery Group Photography (in-class exercise)
12/9	Present *Commercial Advertisements*	12/11	*Best Photo Review* presentations