



"The *estancieros* were in their saddles long before the sun had burnt the sparkle off the grass. They were magnificent men; scowling, black-faced and languid. . . .His women were animal and tattooed with soot. In times of meat, they ate it raw. In times of want, they killed their children and turned to piracy. Their arrow-tips were made of stolen fencing wire, sharpened along all its edges to maximize hemorrhage and to allow the arrow to work loose and be re-used. They moved through the grass like whispers and took no prisoners."...John Gimlette in *At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig: Travels through Paraguay* (Knopf, 2003).

Photography for Writers

English 4304:1 TT 12:30 – 1:45 MAB 208

Fall 2014
Dr. Barney Nelson
Office Hours: TT 10-11, or by appointment

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Suggested Text: *The Magic of Digital Nature Photography* by Rob Sheppard (2007)...Because I anticipate that every student will be using a different camera, this class will concentrate on developing a photographer's eye and creating writing packages. For those who need help with the equipment, this text provides excellent information, and the Internet is full of "how to" sites for every camera style. Many books are available too.

Required Materials: digital camera required, phone camera minimum

English Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes: Students will

1. Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
2. Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
3. Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
4. Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
5. Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature.

Course objectives: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to

- use the fundamentals of good photography (exposure, focus, composition)
- visually illustrate the written word (journalism, memoir, poetry)
- express visual literacy skills (critical vocabulary, interpretation, awareness of trends)
- defend and explain their own aesthetic judgments
- apply photographic storytelling skills (metaphor, personality, sense of time, emotion)
- begin to develop a personal style
- analyze and use strategies for producing a marketable writing/photography package
- understand legal issues and responsibilities regarding copyright and model releases
- analyze publishers and target their photographic/text package needs
- critique peer photography/writing packages
- prepare and submit their work for publication
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Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973: It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Contact Counseling and Accessibility Services in Ferguson Hall, Room 112 or 432-837-8203.

Explanation of Major Assignments and Grading

****30% Weekly Assignments.** Students will produce weekly photo assignments (W-1, W-2, etc.) designed to improve their control of the camera, visualize like a photographer, and tell a story with a photo. Each photo assignment will be packaged with the written word. These assignments are designed for marketing: greeting cards, posters, magazine articles, books. Weekly assignments will receive two grades: one for best photo and one for “package” of photos with text.

****5% Photo Guidelines** - Students will find on the internet (or send for) a photographer’s guide from a publication of their choice. Results will be shared with the class for a “check-off” grade of A.

****5% Market Analysis-** Students will choose a market from a list provided and analyze (checklist provided) of the photo and writing style: calendar companies, postcards, magazines, books, feature topics, profile subjects, advertising, etc. Information will be shared with the class. Analysis will be graded holistically (completion of questionnaire and depth of analysis). Students will prepare for this assignment with in-class peer critique.

****10% Queries (2)** - Students will submit two one-page, typed “query letters” for a writing/photography package similar to the kind of letter which might be sent to an editor when hunting a pre-approved writing assignment (samples and explanation provided). One query should come from the weekly assignments and one should be a new idea. Students will read/present their two queries to the class (photos and writing). The class will help the student choose the best idea, and give suggestions on direction. Queries will be graded holistically (fulfillment of minimum requirements and depth of thought).

****30% Final “Exam” Submission for Publication.** Students will complete one of the query assignments, submit to a publisher, and provide proof of submission (copy of email) along with a copy of the final submission. If also able to provide proof of PUBLICATION acceptance, student will receive an automatic A for this assignment. If not approved for publication, final submission will be holistically graded by professor as a “final exam.” Submission must include a minimum of three photos and 500 words of text.

****10% Public Display** – Students will begin to develop skills for promoting their own work through displaying posters in the library, offering matted and/or framed prints for sale, participating in art shows or gallery exhibits.

****10% Class Participation Attendance** - Class attendance will be governed by the policy stated in the current SRSU bulletin. However, Since this class will depend heavily upon student contributions, in-class demonstrations and projects, workshop peer critiques, analysis, and comment, all absences will be reflected in the class participation grade. On most days students will receive a “check-off” grade for participating in the exercise. Regular attendance is a must.

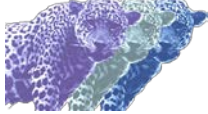



Late assignments will be dropped one letter grade and will not be accepted after two weeks have passed.

A=90%+, B=80%+, C=70%+, D=60%+, F=59% and below.

Extra Credit – Throughout the semester students will be encouraged to produce text/photo packages for publication. Successful publication can be substituted as an A for any low or missing weekly assignment. If only the photo (or only the text) is published, students will receive a letter grade improvement on any weekly assignment. Publication of each photo and/or writing may be used only once (ex: can’t be used again for Final Exam).

Photography for Writers Fall 2014 Tentative Schedule

	T	8/26	Syllabus – Intro – Course Overview w/PP (HO equipment vs. eye)	Outside to look for subjects
	Th	8/28	Explain W-1 (control of light meter) Medium grey, White/white, black/black, black & white; Writing=Artist statement	Practice on B&W photos in groups
	T	9/2	Peer Workshop W-1	
	Th	9/4	Explain W-2 (look for light) Writing = essay about West Texas light	Sweet, reflection, back, open shade, metal shine
	T	9/9	Peer Workshop W-2	
	Th	9/11	Explain W-3 (black as subject, frame) Writing = reflect on “multicultural” light Ansel Adams video	Black @ top, silo, texture, shadows
	T	9/16	Peer Workshop W-3	
	Th	9/18	Explain W-4 (keep it simple, close-up, imagery, minimalist) Writing = quotation (Bartlett’s etc.) w/emphasis on metaphor	Focus/aperture shutter speed
	T	9/23	Peer Workshop W-4	
	Th	9/25	Explain W-5 (compose, crop) Writing = Skyline column or memoir	X’s, 1/3’s, angle, framing, lines
	T	9/30	Peer Workshop W-5	
	Th	10/2	Photo guidelines in class due – share	
	T	10/7	Law for photographers	
	Th	10/9	Explain W-6 (landscape), Leopold/Thoreau Writing = Belles Lettres	<i>Texas Highways</i> <i>Texas P&W-Mag</i> Calendars
	T	10/14	Peer Workshop W-6	
	Th	10/16	Explain W-7 (portrait/personality) Writing = character sketch	Lenses/angle/light humans, etc.
	T	10/21	Peer Workshop W-7	
	Th	10/23	Explain W-8 (action) Writing = captions	
	T	10/28	Peer Workshop W-8	

	Th	10/30	Explain W-9 (Photoshop) Writing = reflect on fiction vs. reality	
	T	11/4	Peer Workshop W-9 + pick assignment for next week	
??	Th	11/6	Explain W-10 (class choice) Writing = (class choice)	
	T	11/11	Peer Workshop W-10	
	Th	11/13	Creating a photo book on-line	
	T	11/18	Market Analysis – chose market from list	Practice market analysis in class
	Th	11/20	Market Analysis due - share	
	T	11/25	2 Queries for publication due – peer workshop & suggest possible publishers	
Th 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK				
	T	12/2	LAST CLASS— Problem solving for “Final Exam”	
	Th	12/11	“Final Exam” submission for publication due	