

Las Positas College  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA 94551-7650  
(925) 424-1000  
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

**Course Outline for MSCM 72**  
**BEGINNING PHOTOJOURNALISM**  
**Effective: Fall 2003**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

MSCM 72 — BEGINNING PHOTOJOURNALISM — 2.00 units

Photography exploring the documentary approach. Survey of photojournalism as a medium of mass communications. Understanding and applying photojournalistic and basic technical and visual skills in the making of successful reportage photographs. Consideration of the work of major 20th century photojournalists.

1.00 Units Lecture 1.00 Units Lab

**Strongly Recommended**

MSCM 14 - Writing and Photo Publication  
or

PHT 50 - PHARM TEC TRAINING I (INTRO)

**Grading Methods:**

Letter Grade

**Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	18.00
<b>Lab Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	72.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

- A. MSCM14
- B. PHT50

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. have an understanding and working knowledge of the 35mm camera and in-camera light meter;
- B. process 35mm negatives and make sharp, publishable black and white with silver prints;
- C. create and edit several sets of related documentary prints on a given subject of publication or display quality;
- D. using appropriate lenses and lighting, being able to conceive and execute clear, dramatic visual images suitable for publication;
- E. demonstrate ability to execute typical documentary assignments such as in depth features, profiles, sports, and photo essay;
- F. demonstrate knowledge and appreciation for the development of photojournalism in the 20th century and the medium's most celebrated practitioners.

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. The 35mm cameras
  - 1. Aperture, shutter speed, and equivalent exposure
  - 2. Film speed and image characteristics
  - 3. Panning, stop action, blurring to show motion
  - 4. Depth of field and selective focus for creative controls
  - 5. Light meters and exposure calculation
  - 6. Lenses, their effects and appropriate use
  - 7. Mastering the electronic flash
- B. Basic processing procedures
  - 1. Negative processing/push processing, digital scanning, and software manipulation for fully paginated images
  - 2. Silver print processing including exposure and contrast control, processing scanned prints digitally
- C. Seeing photographically
  - 1. Understanding the camera/film system's response to light
  - 2. Understanding fundamentals of composition, visual design, and cropping for final image
  - 3. Understanding the technical and visual circumstances of typical photojournalistic situations

- D. History of 20th century photojournalism
  - 1. Early pioneers, their equipment and their work
  - 2. Major photojournalists of the 20th century
  - 3. Social impact of photojournalism as communication medium

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. Audio-visual materials
- C. **Field Trips** - to galleries and publishing offices
- D. Visiting professionals
- E. In-class demonstration

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Photographically illustrate a chosen human subject in the course of a day's work B. Document from a variety of viewpoints the physical situation at a given location. C. Create a photographic essay to accompany a short non-fiction narrative. D. Read and report on articles from at least three photojournalistic publications. E. Choose an article from Double Take magazine that you can emulate and reexamine this topic in a local setting. Shoot at least 100 exposures, editing them down to ten for final presentation. Write up a descriptive summary to accompany your work. F. Give students the topic: "Oakland's Chinatown." Capture the outdoor street life of the area. Write up descriptive captions for each of the photographs submitted to accompany your work.

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
- B. **Frequency**
  - 1. Weekly examinations and quizzes
  - 2. Weekly photo assignments

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Kobre, Kenneth *Photojournalism: The Professional's Approach*. 4th ed., Focal Press, 2000.
- 2. London, Barbara and Jim Stone *A Short Course in Photography: An Introduction to Black and White Photography Technique*. 4th ed., Prentice Hall, 2000.
- 3. Double Take magazine current and back issues to 1998

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. 35mm camera: one that accepts interchangeable lenses preferred
- B. Photographic film, paper, and mounting materials