

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for PHTO 72

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Effective: Fall

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PHTO 72 — DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY — 2.00 units

Photography exploring the documentary approach. Survey of photojournalism as a medium of mass communications. Understanding and applying photo-journalistic 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 Studio Lab

Strongly Recommended

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Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	18.00
Studio Lab Hours:	72.00
Total Hours:	18.00

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

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

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

V. CONTENT:

- A. The 35 mm camera
 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. **Field Trips** - to galleries and publishing offices
- C. **Demonstration** - in class
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- E. Visiting professionals

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 which 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 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**

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. - *Photojournalism.*, Kenneth Kobre Focal Press, 1995.
2. London, Barbara *A Short Course in Photography.*, Harper Collins, 2000.
3. Double Take magazine, current and back issues to 1998.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

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