



JOU 3601

Photographic Journalism

Fall 2015 -- Associate Professor John Freeman

University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications

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Class: Lecture, Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m., 1076 Weimer (labs meet in 3024)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Study and practice of photography as a major component of print journalism. Emphasis on basic picture-taking, selection and use of photographs; ethical, historical, legal and stylistic aspects.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: To help you learn how to both shoot and recognize high-quality still photographs especially suited for publishing in newspapers, magazines and on websites, and to introduce you to current technology used in photojournalism. There is no darkroom work.

TEXT: *A Short Course in Digital Photography, Second Edition*, by Barbara London and Jim Stone, Prentice Hall; ISBN: [0205066429](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/0205066429).

GRADING: There are 2100 points for the course (see below). Grades for photographs submitted will be based on both content and technique. Content is always king. **CONTENT:** Are the pictures strong in a journalistic manner? Do you have choices? Was your work shot following suggestions/requirements? **TECHNIQUE:** Were the photos properly exposed? Did you follow specific class procedures with Adobe Photoshop and when printing? The contact sheet/thumbnailed sheet is part of your grade, not just the two main photographs you submit.

GRADING SCALE

A = 93 - 100; A- = 90 - 92

B+ = 87 - 89; B = 83 - 86

B - = 80 - 82

C+ = 77 - 79; C = 73 - 76

C - = 70 - 72

D+ = 67 - 69; D = 63 - 66

D - = 60 - 62

E = 59 and below

ASSIGNMENTS / TESTS / POINTS

Announced written tests, 3 @ 200 points (600)

Photoshop weekly lab projects (8 @ 100) (800)

Assignment 9 Gallery (WUFT, Alligator) (200)

FP Pitch to Class (50) and two photos (50) (100)

Final Project, Picture Story Slideshow (300)

Participation / Attendance / Effort (100)

EXTRA CREDIT: published "enterprise" - add 20 points each

Your total points divided by 20 = your course grade

SUPPLIES: In addition to the book, you supply the SD card if using a UF camera. *Clear-quality digital .mp3 audio files are required for the final project. You will need a voice recorder.*

CAMERAS: Canon Digital T3i Rebels with an 18-135mm zoom lens will be furnished. If using our equipment, you are responsible for ANY repairs and for REPLACING anything that is lost or broken. The total value is about \$800. You may use your own digital camera *only* if you can manually control exposure (f/stops and shutter speeds). *Flash units and other lenses are not required.* You can use autofocus this semester, but exposure controls must be done manually.

POLICIES:

• **Participation:** You are required to attend all lectures and labs. If you miss, it is your full responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, etc., from someone else in class. This is not an online class. Material is not repeated. “Canvas” is not used; *check UFL email often*. Do not miss the tests. Please do not text in class. It’s distracting and rude when someone is talking (me!). Lateness to class will affect your course grade, it’s a deadline. Your 100 participation points will drop by 10 every time you are late or text. You cannot be late often and get an “A.”

• **Office hours:** I should be available during office hours, T and TH, 10:30 – 11:25 a.m. If I’m in other times, I can usually talk with you. Email is often easier: jfreeman@jou.ufl.edu

• **Submitting assignments:** Turn in the required color prints that best satisfy each assignment and a contact sheet of your “Top 20” images. Printed caption information is required for all photos. *With all assignments, the “Top 20” contact sheet is part of the grade* – not just your submitted photographs with captions. You should have alternative choices and show effort.

• **Late work and other penalties:** Deadlines are essential to journalism. Prints turned in following class lose 10 points that day and 10 points every calendar day thereafter. Assignments submitted without catchlines, borders or credit lines: -5 points each. Typos or spelling errors, -5. Name/fact errors: -50 !! I like to operate on a no-excuses basis – please be a professional.

• **Optional Resubmission:** Following the first seven assignments, you may re-shoot and resubmit any one assignment, even a zero. If the work is better, the higher grade is substituted for the original. (Grades are not always higher, but you won’t get a lower one.) The optional resubmission is due on the last day of class. No resubmission?—no rounding up of course grade.

• **No drinks and food in class:** Sorry; it is university policy that drinks and food are NOT ALLOWED in classes or labs. This is especially enforced in all labs. *No food in class or lab*.

• **Academic honesty:** All work must be your own. Cheating is absolutely not tolerated. It is also your responsibility to obtain correct IDs of people in your photos, and true information. Photos must be shot during this semester. You must compose the shots, determine exposure settings, push the shutter button and process Photoshop on your own. Same for the final project.

• **Special needs:** “Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.”

• **Course evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Please do one.



ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR: (Because this is a photo class, here’s what he looks like! Sorta.) Associate Professor John Freeman teaches this class from a professional viewpoint, acting as a newspaper picture editor. He joined the UF faculty in 1991 after working as a *Wichita Eagle* staff photographer for six years, and photojournalism instructor at Wichita State University for 10 years. He has a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and a master’s in communications from Wichita State University. In summer 2002, he shot for six weeks at *The Record* in Bergen County, N.J., on a fellowship funded by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Earlier he was awarded a Faculty Fellowship for eight weeks of study at *National Geographic* magazine in Washington, D.C., and one summer Mr. Freeman shot for *The Los Angeles Times* in Orange Co., Calif. He has a sarcastic sense of humor but wants you to benefit greatly from this course. He dislikes people gabbing in class when he’s talking and is really bothered by people walking in late. Call him **Mr. Freeman** or **Professor Freeman**, but *not* “Doctor Freeman” (he has *only* a master’s). Don’t call him “John” unless you’re also over 40.