

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – NAIROBI
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
JRN 2103: FUNDAMENTALS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
CREDITS: THREE UNITS
INSTRUCTOR: CHRIS TSUMA. email:cotsuma@yahoo.com
CONSULTATION HOURS- Thursday 1200hrs
CLASS TIME: 1540-1700hrs

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has been structured to give students basic practical skills in photography.

The course is also designed to equip students with an understanding of the role of photography in communication, its history and development.

The course also aims at helping students appreciate the environment in which photographers operate.

It is also the purpose of this course to give students an outline of the legal, ethical and moral bounds within which photographers are expected to do their work.

Since this is an advanced course, students will be expected to put their basic photographic skill to practical use by undertaking a photo story project

Lastly but not least, this course is also aimed at giving students practical basic skills in picture processing computer soft ware.

PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course effectively covers three of the seven items on the Journalism Programme Learning Outcomes which are:

NO.2 Research, gather, write and critique stories for various journalistic genres

NO. 5. Use appropriate information technology to write, edit design, produce package and present media information

No.7 Apply ethical, legal and sound management principles at work in the media and communication industries

COURSE LEARNIG OUTCOMES

To contribute to the overall learning outcomes of the Bachelor of Arts in Journalism programme, this course aims, at the end of it, that students will be able to:

1. Have a grasp of, and be able to articulate basic communication theory as it relates to photography
2. Understand the place of and role of photographs in the wider schemes of things in journalism
3. Identify and react to opportunities for news photographs.
"Develop a nose for news photographs
4. Compose and produce print quality pictures
5. Apply appropriate information communication technology to process and prepare photographs for print.

6. Understand the ethical, legal and moral bounds of photojournalism and how to stay within those bounds as much as possible in the course of duty.
7. Be able to criticize, judge quality of pictures for use.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1: Jan 11 & 13

Introduction.

- What is photography?
- Seeing and photographing
- Brief history of photography

Discussion: *Having traced the history, development and uses of photography to its present state, what can we expect to be like in the next 20 years?*

Readings:

1. *Course Text: London, Upton, Stone, Kobre & Brill: Photography, 8th Edition. Chapter 17*

WEEK 2: JAN 18 & 20

- Functions of photography/photographs
- Attributes which make unique pictures
- Photographs and communication

Discussion: 1. *The two main forms of photography are still and motion. What are the strengths and weakness of each?*

Discussion 2. *What you see is what you photograph. Being able to pick out scenes in an environment which are attractive to the eye is what makes a good photographer.*

Readings:

1. *Course text Chapter 16*
2. *Michael Langford, Phillip Andrews: Langford's Starting Photography, 5th Edition, Focal Press, NY, 2007. (Pgs 16-24)*

WEEK 3: JAN 25 & 27

- Starting off: The process of photography
- Loading film The camera – main features
- Basic Camera controls
 - Aperture
 - Shutter

Discussion:

Light is the most of basic ingredient of photography. Like every ingredient, it's important you have just the right amount of it (light) in order to get good pictures. For that matter, controlling and working with light is in a vital component of photography.

Readings:

1. Course Text Chapter 2

WEEK 4 FEB 1 & 3

Exposure

- Light and photography
- Light and film
- Basic exposure techniques

Readings

1. Course Text Chapter 5
2. Teach Yourself Photography; Frost, Lee; Holder Publications, London 2003 (Chapter 4)

WEEK 5 FEB 8 & 10

- Focusing
- Composition

Discussion: *The Human eye can only take in so much of the scene in its angle of view. We always focus our eyes on what we want to see, or are interested in. That's what the eye focuses on. The rest of the scene is blurred. Focusing and composition in photography works on the same principle.*

Readings:

1. *Course Text Pg 6; chapter 16*
2. *Teach Yourself Photography; Frost, Lee; Holder Publications, London 2003 (Chapter 10)*

WEEK 6 FEB 15 & 17

Lenses

- Types of lenses
- Lens focal length
- Length focusing and depth of field
- Choosing the right lens

WEEK 7 FEB 22 & 24

- Mid semester Examination

WEEK 8 MARCH 1 & 3

Lighting

- Natural light
- Artificial light
- Flash photography
- Filters

Readings:

1. *Course Text Chapter 12*
2. *Michael Langford, Phillip Andrews: Langford's Starting Photography, 5th Edition, Focal Press, NY, 2007. (chapter 5)*

WEEK 9 MARCH 8 & 10

Digital photography

- The digital camera
- Features
- The digital image

Readings:

1. *Course Text Chapter 12*
2. *Michael Langford, Phillip Andrews: Langford's Starting Photography, 5th Edition, Focal Press, NY, 2007. (chapter 7)*

WEEK 10 – MARCH 15 & 17

- Digital darkroom
- Editing and processing digital images
- Ethics and digital editing

Readings:

1. *Course Text Chapter 11*
2. *Tarant, Jon: Understanding Digital Cameras, Focal Press, NY, 2007 (Chapter 12)*

WEEK 11 MARCH 22 & 24

Special areas in photography

- Sport/Action
- Nature
- Portraiture
- Photographing animals, children, buildings

Readings

1. *Michael Langford, Phillip Andrews: Langford's Starting Photography, 5th Edition, Focal Press, NY, 2007. (Pg 137).*
2. *Teach Yourself Photography; Frost, Lee; Holder Publications, London 2003 (Chapter 13, 15,16, 20 and 18)*

WEEK 12 MARCH 29 & 31

- Ethics/Law and photography
- Privacy
- Trespass
- Copyright

WEEK 13 APRIL 5 & 7

- *Revision and consultation*

WEEK 14 APRIL 12 & 14

- *Final Examination*

Readings List

1. London, B; Upton, J; Stone, J; Kobre, K; Brill, B: Photography; 8th Ed. New Jersey, 2005.
2. Grange, Ashley Ia: Basic Critical Theory for Photographers –, Communication Theory; Oxford Focal Press 2005.
3. Langford, Michael and Andrews, Phillip: Starting Photography, 5th Edition, Focal Press, NY, 2007.
4. Berry, David; Ed. Ethics and Media Culture; Practices and Representations, Focal Press, 2000.
5. Tarant, Jon: Understanding Digital Cameras, Focal Press, NY, 2007 (Chapter 12)