

Journalism 5030.001 Visual Journalism Fall 2011

Instructor: Thorne Anderson

Meeting Time & Location: Wednesdays 3:30 - 6:20, UCD Room 415

Office Hours in GAB 110C: Tuesdays 10-12 am

Email: Thorne.Anderson@UNT .edu

Tel: 940-369-5102

You may have noticed the catalogue course description is a bit outdated. Most misleading course description statement: "Activities include publishable projects on CD-ROM and for the web."

Required Texts

Basic Critical Theory for Photographers by Ashley la Grange

Regarding the Pain of Others by Susan Sontag

The Cruel Radiance: Photography and Political Violence by Susie Linfield

Reading National Geographic by Catherine A Lutz and Jane L Collins

JOUR 5030 Class Reader and/or readings on library reserve

Required Weekly Web Readings

<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/>

<http://www.bagnewsnotes.com/>

<http://duckrabbit.info/blog/>

Recommended Books

On Photography by Susan Sontag

Ways of Seeing by John Berger

Mirrors and Windows by John Szarkowski

Camera Lucida by Roland Barthes

Between the Eyes: Essays of Photography and Politics, Ed. David Levi Strauss

No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy by Robert Hariman and John Louis Lucaites

Picturing the Past: Media, History & Photography, Ed. Bonnie Brennen and Hanno Hardt

Recommended Manuals

www.citationmachine.net and your choice of *Publication Manual of the APA* (6th Edition), www.apastyle.org or *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th Edition)

www.chicagomanualofstyle.org

Textbook policy

The Mayborn School of Journalism doesn't require students to purchase textbooks from the University Bookstore. Many are available through other bookstores or online. Some are available for rent.

Course Goals and Outcomes

This is not a photography practice course. Instruction in the practical matters of photography and student photography assignments will occupy only a small fraction of our time in this course. This course is primarily concerned with exploring the broader questions about visual journalism from a critical perspective. We begin with the history of photojournalism, trace the heritage of critical theory in photography, explore some of the practical matters of photography in journalism, consider legal and ethical matters of photojournalism, assess the state of visual journalism research and criticism, and open to new questions for research. In short, students will gain a facility for informed and nuanced critique of visual journalism and will discover new avenues for potential research.

Expectations for the Student

This is a graduate seminar. Students are expected to read all assignments, lead class discussions and teach each other in addition to what they learn from the instructor and the readings. You must read all assignments before each class and be prepared to discuss them thoroughly. In this class we will discuss and present scholarly research and critical essays on visual communication. Students are advised to stay up to date with what is happening in news media by reading newspapers, watching television network/local/cable TV news, reading magazines, keeping up with Internet news sites, blogs and other forms of mass media. You also should pay attention to advertising, film, videos, video games and other forms of mass media. Our aim is to apply the theories you learn here to practical formats.

Deadlines

If you know at least two days ahead of time that *due to extraordinary circumstances* you can't meet a deadline then contact me immediately and we may be able to arrange an alternate deadline for you. Otherwise, the first individual assignment turned in late will be penalized by the equivalent of one letter grade. The second late assignment will be penalized by the equivalent of two letter grades, and so on. Of this harsh policy I'd like to say "this is going to hurt me more than it is going to hurt you," but that wouldn't be true.

Attendance

You are required to come to all class sessions. EVERY CLASS is important. One explained absence in the course is the limit without penalty toward your final grade unless you have communicated with me in advance about an extraordinary problem. Do not fail to communicate clearly with me. Coming to class late or leaving early may constitute an absence for that day. You are solely responsible for the material you miss in any class presentation.

Cell phone policy: Cell phones should NEVER be used in class, including text messaging. You may be asked to leave class for using a cell phone.

Grading

- * Response Papers (500-750 words): 30 percent
- * Class presentations/discussion leader: 20 percent
- * Visual Essay: 20 percent
- * Final proposal and paper (5-7 pages + citations): 30 percent

Academic Honesty

All work for this class must be *original work created during this semester*. Furthermore, when you submit work for this class, that is the same as making a statement that you have produced the work yourself, in its entirety. Plagiarism, fabrication, copyright infringement, and similar uses of other people's work are unacceptable. You are expected to conform to the university Student Code of Conduct; see www.unt.edu/csrr.

The term "plagiarism" applies to text or visual submissions and includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation or reprinting of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and/or
- (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

Plagiarism, in a nutshell, is using other people's words or visual creations as your own. Some people consider the use of 7-10 words in a row, copied from another source, as plagiarism. Be sure to include citations when using other people's writing, photography, or designs because plagiarism is a serious offense in any discipline, especially in journalism. It's a firing offense in the professional world.

In this department, students face a range of penalties for plagiarism (depending on the importance of the assignment): a grade of "F" on a minor assignment; a request that the student drop the class; withdrawal of the student from the class, initiated by the professor; an "F" in the course; a referral to the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities; a notation on the student's transcript; and suspension or expulsion from the university. A combination of these penalties may also be used.

Disability Accommodation: The School of Journalism cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students. If you have not registered with ODA, please do so and present your written accommodation request to me by the 12th day of class.

SETE: The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a university-wide online evaluation and a requirement for all UNT classes. The Mayborn School of Journalism needs your input to improve our teaching and curriculum. This short survey will be available at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Prompt completion of the SETE will mean earlier access to final semester grades. You're a critical part of our growth and success. We look forward to your input through SETE.

***Thanks to Dr. Tracy Everbach for her contributions to this syllabus.**

Statement of Student Learning Outcomes

Since 1969, the UNT Department of Journalism (Mayborn School of Journalism effective September 1, 2009) has been accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. This national accreditation also extends to the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism, the only accredited professional master's program in Texas. About one-fourth of all journalism and mass communication programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC. National accreditation enhances your education here, because it certifies that the department and graduate institute adhere to many standards established by the council. Among these standards are student learning outcomes, covered by journalism courses in all sequences.

This course, JOUR 5030, will help to meet the student learning outcomes that have been checked by your professor, Thorne Anderson .

Each graduate must:

- * Understand and apply First Amendment principles and the law appropriate to professional practice.
- * Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
- * Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to communications.
- * Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.
- * Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- * Think critically, creatively and independently.
- * Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve.
- * Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness.
- * Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.