

**SAULT COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY**

**SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO**



**SAULT  
COLLEGE**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**COURSE TITLE:** Photojournalism and Documentary Photography  
**CODE NO. :** PHT303 **SEMESTER:** 3  
**PROGRAM:** Digital Photography and Imaging  
**AUTHOR:** Colin Crowell  
**DATE:** June 2013 **PREVIOUS OUTLINE DATED:** June 2012  
**APPROVED:** "Colin Kirkwood" June 11/13

---

**DEAN**

---

**DATE**

**TOTAL CREDITS:** 4  
**PREREQUISITE(S):** College and program admission requirements.  
**HOURS/WEEK:** 4

**Copyright © The Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology**  
*Reproduction of this document by any means, in whole or in part, without prior written permission of Sault College of Applied Arts & Technology is prohibited.*  
*For additional information, please contact Colin Kirkwood, Dean,*  
*School of Environment, Technology and Business*  
*(705) 759-2554, Ext. 2688*

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students will study the increasingly far-reaching role of photojournalism. Web blogging and web news sites will be looked at as well as the traditional newspaper, magazine and book photojournalism. By studying existing work and by producing work themselves students will learn the basics of good photojournalism practice and documentary photography.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. **Capture professional quality images using the appropriate equipment and techniques;**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Proper equipment use
- Demonstrated control of all lighting within an image
- Use of strong compositional elements.
- Understanding of the “decisive moment”
- Demonstrate proper selection of focal length and shooting range for presence/storytelling
- Use focal length to emphasize or remove environmental cues.
- Tell a story using only composition and light.
- Demonstrate proper on camera flash techniques for key light, fill and slow sync motion.
- Demonstrate proper use of on camera flash with mobility
- Understand the ethics of photojournalism.
- Techniques for proper wedding photography, event photography, grip’n’grin, podium.
- Create a documentary series.
- Understanding of gaining access to a location, subject or event.

2. **Utilize design elements and lighting techniques to capture images that communicate effectively;**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Demonstrated use of appropriate composition and lighting techniques for the subject matter.
- Demonstrated use of different color, lighting and compositional techniques and an understanding of their use.

3. **Create and edit well-designed and technically sound digital images using**

**industry standard software**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-Assignments and in class labs will require submissions of finished images according to techniques previously demonstrated in the Digital Imaging Class.

4. **Finish and distribute images in a format that meets the needs of the client;**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-Teacher and Peer evaluations of effectiveness of assignment according to parameters and product.

-Assignments and in class labs will require submissions of finished images according to techniques previously demonstrated in the Digital Imaging Class

5. **Critically evaluate the effectiveness of images in written and verbal format;**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-During in class critiques, the students will participate in discussing not only their own images, but those of other students.

-Presentations of work and concept behind submission.

6. **Develop a portfolio that demonstrates creative and professional skills and abilities in digital image capture and editing of photojournalism work.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Assignments from this class will be part of year-end portfolio submission.

-Emphasis in this class will be on high-end final product submissions with commercial standards.

7. **Use of compositional guidelines, exposure and White Balance to communicate a mood or storyline**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-Emphasis on effective communication of an event/story thru technical control of the camera and exposure.

-Students will be expected to choose the most efficient and effective camera settings in order to capture crisp images of an event, no matter the lighting conditions.

8. **Research practices and strategies for gaining access to a story, subject or event.**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-Students will be expected to perform research to understand the story and underlying storylines of an event, person or organization before arriving to photograph.

-Students will be given strategies to effectively assess the story to be able to more accurately communicate to viewers.

-Students will be given professional strategies for gaining access to a location, person or organization in order to take photographs for a story.

9. **Development of a long term documentary series**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

-Students will study multiple successful styles of documentary series and have to research, gain access and photograph their own.

10. **Conceptual photography**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

Students will be expected to draw on their previous visual communication experience and teachings to develop conceptual/editorial pieces.

-New creative concept strategies for developing fresh ideas and compositions will be covered.

12. **Communication**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

communicate clearly, concisely, and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience. Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication

13. **CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

apply a systematic approach to solve problems

14. **innovative thinking**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems

15. **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems. Analyse, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources

16. **INTER-PERSONAL**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others

17. **PERSONAL**

Potential Elements of the Performance:

manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects

**III. TOPICS:**

1. Gaining Access/ Privacy Laws
2. Ethics of Photojournalism
3. Storytelling
4. Storytelling2
5. Wide vs. Long Focal Length: Geometry of Photojournalism
6. Fill Flash, Manual vs. TTL
7. Dragging the shutter, Bounce Flash
8. Off Camera Flash (Fink)
9. Documentary Photography
10. Editorial
11. Conceptual Still Life/ Stock
12. Editorial Conceptual
13. GripNGrin Podium

14. Documentary: RESEARCH, Finding a contact, familiarization, rhythm and process
15. Wedding Ceremony

#### IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

All students will be required to use tools and materials specified in the equipment list. In addition students should expect to purchase consumable supplies such as printing paper, mat board, cover stock, etc.

#### V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

All assignments = 100% of the grade.

Students must complete all assignments to achieve credit for the course.

There will be 10 assignments worth 7% each.

There will be 1 documentary series worth 30%.

The following semester grades will be assigned to students:

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Definition</u>  | <u>Grade Point Equivalent</u> |
|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| A+           | 90 – 100%  | 4.00                          |
| A            | 80 – 89%   | 3.00                          |
| B            | 70 - 79%   | 2.00                          |
| C            | 60 - 69%   | 1.00                          |
| D            | 50 – 59%   | 0.00                          |
| F (Fail)     | 49% and below  |                               |
| CR (Credit)  | Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.  |                               |
| S            | Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.  |                               |
| U            | Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.   |                               |
| X            | A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course. |                               |
| NR           | Grade not reported to Registrar's office.  |                               |
| W            | Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.  |                               |

#### VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Course Outline Amendments:

The professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Retention of Course Outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Prior Learning Assessment:

Students who wish to apply for advance credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain an Application for Advance Credit from the program coordinator (or the course coordinator regarding a general education transfer request) or academic assistant. Students will be required to provide an unofficial transcript and course outline related to the course in question. Please refer to the Student Academic Calendar of Events for the deadline date by which application must be made for advance standing.

Credit for prior learning will also be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your professor and/or the Disability Services office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 2703 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Communication:

The College considers **WebCT/LMS** as the primary channel of communication for each course. Regularly checking this software platform is critical as it will keep you directly connected with faculty and current course information. Success in this course may be directly related to your willingness to take advantage of the **Learning Management System** communication tool.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of "academic dishonesty" in *Student Code of Conduct*. A professor/instructor may assign a sanction as defined below, or make recommendations to the Academic Chair for disposition of the matter. The professor/instructor may (i) issue a verbal reprimand, (ii) make an assignment of a lower grade with explanation, (iii) require additional academic assignments and issue a lower grade upon completion to the maximum grade "C", (iv) make an automatic assignment of a failing grade, (v) recommend to the Chair dismissal from the course with the assignment of a failing grade. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author

of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

#### Student Portal:

The Sault College portal allows you to view all your student information in one place. **mysaultcollege** gives you personalized access to online resources seven days a week from your home or school computer. Single log-in access allows you to see your personal and financial information, timetable, grades, records of achievement, unofficial transcript, and outstanding obligations. Announcements, news, the academic calendar of events, class cancellations, your learning management system (LMS), and much more are also accessible through the student portal. Go to <https://my.saultcollege.ca>.

#### Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

Students who wish to use electronic devices in the classroom will seek permission of the faculty member before proceeding to record instruction. With the exception of issues related to accommodations of disability, the decision to approve or refuse the request is the responsibility of the faculty member. Recorded classroom instruction will be used only for personal use and will not be used for any other purpose. Recorded classroom instruction will be destroyed at the end of the course. To ensure this, the student is required to return all copies of recorded material to the faculty member by the last day of class in the semester. Where the use of an electronic device has been approved, the student agrees that materials recorded are for his/her use only, are not for distribution, and are the sole property of the College.

#### Attendance:

Sault College is committed to student success. There is a direct correlation between academic performance and class attendance; therefore, for the benefit of all its constituents, all students are encouraged to attend all of their scheduled learning and evaluation sessions. This implies arriving on time and remaining for the duration of the scheduled session.

#### Tuition Default:

Students who have defaulted on the payment of tuition (tuition has not been paid in full, payments were not deferred or payment plan not honoured) as of the first week of *November* will be removed from placement and clinical activities. This may result in loss of mandatory hours or incomplete course work. Sault College will not be responsible for incomplete hours or outcomes that are not achieved or any other academic requirement not met as of the result of tuition default. Students are encouraged to communicate with Financial Services with regard to the status of their tuition prior to this deadline to ensure that their financial status does not interfere with academic progress.



### Deductions – Lates and fails

#### **Lates:**

An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted at the time and date specified by the instructor.

A late assignment will be penalized by 20% immediately after the due date. A 10% deduction for each week that it is late after the original due date. The total late penalty will be deducted from the final grade. Eg: 3 weeks late = 30% deduction from final grade of assignment.

Maximum grade for a late assignment is “C”.

A late assignment which is not executed to a minimum D (satisfactory) level will be assigned a fail grade with additional penalties outlined below.

#### **Fail:**

A fail grade (F) is assessed to an assignment, which has not been executed to a minimum satisfactory “D” grade level or in which the directions have not been followed correctly.

A failed assignment must be entirely redone or corrected according to the instructor’s specific instructions and resubmitted within one week.

Maximum grade for a failed assignment is “C”.

#### **Resubmission Policy:**

Any assignment completed during this course may be submitted for re-evaluation if the following criteria are met by the student:

- An assignment that was initially submitted past the initial assigned deadline will not be eligible for re-evaluation
- An assignment that initially achieved a fail grade must be resubmitted to achieve minimum project standards and will receive a maximum C grade as indicated under the Lates and Fails section in this outline.
- The resubmitted project must be accompanied by the original project and the original evaluation sheet (with written indication of grade breakdown) provided by the instructor.
- Assignments may be resubmitted at any time during the semester. The final date for last resubmissions will be announced by the professor during class and usually are no later than two weeks prior to the end of the semester.
- Resubmitted assignments must identify the project and class, and be clearly marked “RESUBMISSION” when submitted.
- It must be understood that resubmitted assignments are usually marked with greater scrutiny than first submissions to take into consideration the learning experiences, practice and longer timeframe available.
- When comparing the original submission grade the student will receive benefit of the higher grade.

