S Y L L A B U S
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME
Introduction to Photojournalism

The Film and Digital Media program offers the student the opportunity to study film and new media forms in the only comprehensive program of its kind in Italy. Students will receive a thorough liberal arts education which also focuses in depth upon the development of foundation skills in concept development, film and new media theory, narrative and non-narrative storytelling, aesthetics and visual literacy, sound design, and using and adapting to the latest tools and technologies. Upon completion of this program, students will have the skills necessary to begin entry level work or pursue graduate study in a number of interrelated fields such as film and video production, new media production, motion graphics and special effects, experimental animation, graphic design, web/interactive design, and multimedia design.

Course Title:	FDM283: Special Topics: Introduction to Photojournalism
Period:	Summer 2015
Credits:	Three hours.
Professor:	Jeanie Adams-Smith e-mail: jeanie.adams-smith@wku.edu
Time:	Monday – Thursday 2:50-5:10pm
Office hours:	By appointment.

Course Description:
Introduction to Photojournalism will allow students to better understand storytelling through the technical, aesthetic and ethical aspects of digital photography. Students will learn to capture daily life with Rome as the backdrop. Daily assignments will encourage students to use their cameras to tell stories from their unique study abroad experience and take home skills that can be used to photograph people in any rich environment. A digital camera is required. Must bring camera to first day of class.

Students will learn more about Photojournalism as a discipline of gathering news content from a visual perspective. Students will be taught reporting, ethics and content gathering through the lens of visual storytelling.

Classes are people-centric, meaning students are required to find stories and photo opportunities that are about the human condition.

Class Website:
Course Pre-recs: COM100 or Permission of Instructor
Course Textbooks: TBA

Course Learning Objectives:

In this course students will:

1. review how to effectively use digital SLR cameras.

2. understand what makes a good photograph in terms of:
(1) content (2) composition (3) technical quality (4) storytelling moments
(5) captions (6) presentations

3. acquire and develop intellectual, technical and analytical skills to make photographs that communicate.

4. understand the all-important contribution of the idea to the photograph — the critical element that separates the picture maker from the picture taker.

5. learn digital workflow using a digital camera and software

6. gain confidence taking pictures in a different cultural environment - to be able to confidently take pictures in different venues visited over the 3-week period in Rome.

7. acquire the skills needed to approach people, interview them and tell their story through visual mediums.

Topics Discussed:
- Review of camera mechanics/equivalent exposure
- Idea generation/caption writing
- Picture stories • Electronic flash
- Depth of field • Photography etiquette in another country
- Natural light • History of European photographers
- Photographic composition • Ethics/laws
- Portraits • Action/Motion •On-location shooting

Assignments:
Weekly photography assignments receive the most weight towards the final grade in this class. Each assignment is discussed in class. When appropriate, a handout will be provided outlining the requirements for the photograph. If it is feasible, practical demonstrations will be performed during class to aid in completing the assignments. Also included with the assignment will be the date the assignment is due (they are due at the beginning of class). Any assignment handed in late (or not at all) will result in zero points given for that assignment. Getting a zero on more than two assignments can usually result in getting no more than a "D" in the class. There are no exceptions to this policy. Deadlines are crucial in the communications photography field.

Students will have the opportunity to reshoot two of the daily assignments. The purpose of these reshoots is to give the opportunity to better a grade of an assignment shot or to make up an assignment that was not handed in because of a missed deadline. Students cannot begin shooting an assignment until the assignment sheet is received in class - no previous work will be accepted.

Potential Assignments:
(subject to change)
1. Classmate – review lensing and technical basics

2. Rome Life - composition
3. Light – using available light as a composition tool
4. On-location in an Italian market – approaching people
5. Details in Rome – learning to see the small photos
6. Portrait – working with people in a portrait situation
7. Lighting - using your flash
8. Moments/Reaction/Interaction – the foundation photo of photojournalism
9. On-location in a TBA village/town – students will have a photo "shoot-out"
10. Final project- 3-photo package with a written story

Assignments are meant to build on each other as the lessons progress. The students build strong photojournalism skills through lensing, composition and learning how to approach people. By the Final Project each student will have a "tool kit" on how to build a series of photos that tell a story on a person that they can spend time with.

* **Critiques** -Students are expected to be able to articulate what elements are successful and/or what improvements could be made in their projects as well as their classmates' projects during class critiques.

Assessment Tools
Students will be assessed by a grading rubric. Criteria will be given out prior to each assignment.

Grade Tabulation:

Assignments:	80%
Quizzes	5%
Final Project:	10%
Class Participation	5%

AUR grade values

94 – 100 points	=	A	"Excellent"
90 – 93.99 pts	=	A-	
87 – 89.99	=	B+	
83 – 86.99	=	B	"Good"
80 – 82.99	=	B-	
77 – 79.99	=	C+	
73 – 76.99	=	C	"Satisfactory"
70 – 72.99	=	C-	"Less than Satisfactory"
60 – 69.99	=	D	"Poor"
59.99 – 0	=	F	"Failing"

Grade Dispute Policy:
Please note that grades are given according to AUR Grade Values. This means average projects will receive a C, good projects a B, excellent projects an A, etc. The reasons for each grade will be spelled out clearly in project rubrics and on corrected quizzes. If students do feel that they were given an incorrect grade, please address the issue with me personally after class in a respectful way. More often than not students are given the highest grade possible for the quality of work submitted and grade disputes are not encouraged unless a glaring discrepancy was made. **Please also note that the final grade for the semester also includes scores for overall participation, attendance, and punctuality.**

AUR Attendance Policy

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Tolerated Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:
Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Automatically Accepted Absences

Certain categories of absence will automatically be accepted and will not be counted as one of the 3 tolerated absences (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences, which will not be penalized, are:
• The Model United Nations (MUN);
• Permit to Stay,
• SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
• Religious Holidays
• The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)
• Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.
• Students who will miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should
first consult their academic advisors.

*Note:

No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).
Catalog 2013-2014 p.31-32

Suggested if You Miss Class:

Please email or phone a classmate who can lend their notes and can help with any information missed. In this course it is important to stay on top of material since so much is covered. *Please do not email the professor for a briefing on what was missed, as it's not possible to sum up an entire class in a short email. After an effort has been made to contact a classmate and catch up, your professor will be happy to give individual help by appointment.

AUR Academic Integrity Code & Policy against Plagiarism
"Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments, including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports; lending to or producing assignments for others (either for or without payment); using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations, copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own; and otherwise misappropriating the knowledge of others. Such acts are both dishonest and deceptive: the work submitted to instructors is not the work of the person whose name it bears. In consequence, the sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and facts, including internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form. Failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism." -- AUR Student Handbook, 2006/2007, p. 15.

Suggestions:
Back-up all work in progress. Save projects under different names every time a change is made. It just takes one quick click…and could save hours (if not days) of frustration. Always back-up everything!