UNIVERSITY OF IOWA • COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION  
DEPARTMENTAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER (DEO) • DAVID PERLMUTTER • david-perlmutter@uiowa.edu  
E 305 B ADLER JOURNALISM BUILDING • 319-384-3383  

019:164 (JMC: 3820) IMAGES & SOCIETY: PHOTOJOURNALISM IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
FALL 2012 • MEETS TUES & THURS 12:30-1:50 PM, 109 ENGLISH-PHILOSOPHY BUILDING  

INSTRUCTOR JUDY POLUMBAUM • judy-polumbaum@uiowa.edu  
E 320 AJB, TEL 335-3389 • OFFICE HRS TUES 2-5 PM & BY APPOINTMENT  
TEACHING ASSISTANT JOSH MURPHY • joshua-murphy@uiowa.edu  
E 323 AJB, TEL 335-3341 • OFFICE HRS MON 1:15-3:15 PM & BY APPOINTMENT  

COURSE OVERVIEW  
This course focuses on photojournalism, broadly construed as the uses of photography to document and bear witness to human existence and events. The emphasis is on news and documentary photography, past and present, in the United States and internationally, as well as study of the contexts in which these images are produced, disseminated and received. We also will consider “vernacular” photographs—e.g., family and friendship and travel photography, spontaneous and posed, and all that online photo sharing in which so many people now indulge.  
The course will trace the tools, techniques and technological evolution of photography in light of history and culture; introduce some of the “masters” of photography from various periods and genres as well as some primary theorists of photography; examine main phases, major controversies and enduring themes in photojournalism; and explore photography’s potential for promoting social awareness and social change.  
The class meets twice weekly throughout the semester, and carries 3 s.h. of credit. Successful completion fulfills the advanced conceptual course requirement for journalism majors and also may be used for international studies credit.  

RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES  
Photography, invented in the 19th century, came of age in the 20th as a means to provide an unprecedented record of human history and happenings. Even as photography’s uses and conventions have changed and underlying technologies have evolved, and even as motion pictures, video and television have brought moving images to the forefront of visual communication, the still photograph endures. Partly due to the way the brain processes visual information, still photographs exert cognitive and emotional power of a sort moving images cannot equal. In the modern age, photographs are ubiquitous as both public and private documents and remain important across the arts and sciences, ever-present in popular culture and crucial in journalism.  
Philosopher George Santayana referred to the photograph as “unalloyed fact.” However, former Times of London editor Harold Evans writes: “The camera cannot lie, but it can be an accessory to untruth.” And the late photographer Richard Avedon said: “The moment an emotion or fact is transformed into a photograph it is no longer a fact but an opinion. There is no such thing as inaccuracy in a photograph. All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth.”
Filtering of reality takes place at many points, including the choice or serendipity of the moment captured by the photographer, editorial selection, arrangement and juxtaposition of images, the nature and content of accompanying text, and the meanings that viewers ascribe. More broadly, photographic practices and readings are shaped by political and economic imperatives, social priorities and preoccupations, and cultural norms and expectations.

This course aims to sharpen both your vision and your intellect, and to help you go beyond common-sense assumptions about photographs as depictions of “reality” to ponder both possibilities and limitations of photographic representation as a means of understanding the world. Above all, the course takes photography as a window on history and culture whose ostensible transparency demands especially critical viewing.

A BIT ABOUT LOGISTICS

Ordinarily, Tuesday sessions of the course will revolve around thematic lectures, while Thursday sessions will include discussion, group work and sharing of student projects.

For purposes of organizing small groups and scheduling student presentations, we also will divide the class into two sections. On the basis of current enrollment information, this semester’s sections are as follows (labeled for convenience, but also reflecting the expectation that students will take initiative, start new movements and forge new paths.)

➤ If your first major or declared interest is Journalism & Mass Communication, International Studies, Political Science, Art or Music, you are in the group we shall call the Instigators.

➤ If your major is anything other than the above, you are in the group we shall call the Pioneers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

➤ Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is required. Unexcused, undocumented absences will lower your final course grade exponentially (i.e., the more you miss, the greater the impact). See further details on attendance policy below.

➤ Required reading: Readings will be posted on the course ICON site, and each week’s assigned readings must be completed and responded to in writing prior to Tuesday’s class.

➤ Reading responses: For each reading, you are required to turn in a short but carefully thought out response paper, consisting of one “factual” question, with answer provided, and one “philosophical” or essay-type question, also with a brief answer (approximately 250 words, using conventional 12-pt. font, single spacing and 1-inch margins). Hard copies of these are due at the start of the Tuesday class for which the reading is assigned.

➤ Other assignments & projects: You will complete a couple of small assignments and two hands-on photo projects during the semester. The projects require access to some sort of digital camera (which can be as simple as a cell phone camera) and must be original, independent work done specifically for this course. Further instructions for homework, including details of substance, format, specific deadlines, submission arrangements and assessment guidelines will be provided in class and posted on ICON. Below are brief descriptions:

➤ Assignment #1, weeks 2-3: Bring in a photograph of yourself, accompanied by a paragraph about the image.
Assignment #2 due week 5: Venture into the UI Main Library stacks to select and study one issue of LIFE magazine from sometime during the year (perhaps during the precise week if that issue strikes you) one of your parents or grandparents was born. Check out the bound volume containing the issue to bring to class. Write a one-page essay (approximately 500 words, using conventional 12-pt. font, single spacing and 1-inch margins) offering your overall impressions of this issue. In addition, select one photo essay/article from the issue to share & discuss with classmates.

Mini-project to be presented in weeks 10-11-12-13: Prepare an advocacy photo essay of 10-12 digital images, accompanied by a written introduction, concerning something you care passionately about. Students will present brief slideshows to the entire class and have a chance to revise these before final submission of images and accompanying text (the ultimate deadline will be during finals week, exact date and time TBA).

Tests: You’ll face two in-class tests, one at midterm and the other near the end of the semester, addressing material from the first and second halves of the course respectively (i.e., these are not cumulative) and including both short-answer questions and short essays. You’ll receive study guides in advance, and nothing on the tests should come as a surprise if you’re attending class and doing the work.

Evaluation

Expectations of all students are high, but your own demands on yourself should be the highest of all. Grades will be based on a combination of class attendance, preparation and participation, responses to assigned readings, other assignments and projects, and tests, as follows:

- Class attendance (maximum 210 points — 7 pts per session x 30; 15 pts deducted for first unexcused absence, 20 for second, 25 for third, etc.)
- Reading responses (maximum 120 points — up to 15 pts x 8)
- Assignments & project (maximum 100 points — up to 10 points for assignment #1, 20 for assignment #2, 70 for mini-project)
- Tests (maximum 100 points — 50 x 2)
- Other — preparedness, meeting deadlines, class contributions, work of a caliber above and beyond… (up to 50 additional points)

Your point total will be calculated as a percentage and converted to a letter grade. Grading will be on an elementary-intermediate curve as suggested by CLAS guidelines (http://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-grading-system-and-distribution). Minus & plus grades will be used. You can interpret letter grades generally as follows: A=exceptional work, B=very good work, C=average work, D=unacceptable work, F=failing.

Housekeeping, Policies & Other Information

This section includes matters also covered in the “College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Teaching Policies & Resources — Syllabus Insert” appended to this syllabus and also available at http://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-syllabus-insert

Please use your uiowa.edu e-mail account (or if you use a different account, make sure it is linked to the uiowa address). University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI e-mail address.
⇒ Make sure to check the course ICON site regularly. This is where you will find required readings, detailed explanations of assignments, any revisions or additions to the course calendar, etc., as well as a great deal of supplemental material.

⇒ Attendance is not optional. Except in cases of death in the family, serious illness, or other genuine emergencies or crises, you are expected to attend all class meetings. If you must miss a class for an acceptable reason, notify the instructor and/or the TA (preferably both) in person or by e-mail in advance; if extenuating circumstances make advance notice impossible, notify us as soon as possible thereafter; and you must provide documentation upon your return to class (i.e., funeral program, doctor’s note).

⇒ Meet your deadlines. You are urged to begin your work somewhat earlier than at the last minute. Plan ahead. No extensions will be granted except in extraordinary circumstances requiring documented explanation.

⇒ Pay attention to detail. You are expected to take time and care with both visual and written work, and to revise, edit and proofread your writing conscientiously before turning it in. You are expected to hand in printouts of written assignments; e-mails at the last minute do not count. Make backups of all files, and also keep your own copies of all printouts you hand in. Make sure you put your name at the top of each of your papers.

⇒ Common courtesy. Otherwise known as common sense, or what you learned in kindergarten. Arriving to class late/leaving class early is disruptive and inappropriate behavior. If other classes or obligations overlap with times scheduled for this course, rearrange the other matters or drop this course. Turn off cell phones (or put them on vibrate if you are expecting important calls/messages). Please don’t surf the web, tweet, check e-mail, text-message, etc., during class (unless you are called upon to do so for class purposes!).

⇒ Unethical conduct. Plagiarism (i.e., expropriating words and ideas of others without due attribution) and cheating of any sort are grounds for a failing grade in the course. For details on definitions and consequences of academic misconduct, see the CLAS Code of Academic Honesty, at http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code

⇒ Special accommodations. Academic arrangements for students with disabilities are handled with the cooperation of Student Disability Services, 3015 Burge Hall, tel. 335-1462. Students needing special accommodations for any aspect of the course are urged to contact SDS and to speak with the instructor early in the semester. The Student Disability Services website is http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/

⇒ Sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the School, College or University. For definitions, assistance, and the full University policy, see http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/

⇒ Severe weather. If a weather event disrupts class, we will seek appropriate shelter in the building; and class will resume if possible when the event is over.

⇒ Examination policies. The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences dictates that final exams may be offered only during finals week, and no exams are allowed during the last week of classes. The College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun.

⇒ Complaints. Show up during office hours, make appointments, and/or contact me by e-mail with thoughts and concerns. If you feel uncomfortable bringing a concern directly to your instructor, you may consult David Perlmutter, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Helena Dettmer, CLAS associate dean for undergraduate programs and
curriculum; the University Ombudspersons; and/or other relevant authorities. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident.

**Administrative supervision.** The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as add/drop deadlines, second-grade option, and other related issues. College guidelines are detailed in the CLAS student handbook at [http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/); questions also may be addressed to CLAS Academic Programs & Services, 120 Schaeffer Hall.

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### The Iowa Dozen

As one of more than 100 programs in journalism and mass communication accredited by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC)—see [http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/STUDENT/PROGLIST.SHTML](http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/STUDENT/PROGLIST.SHTML)—we endeavor to assure that our graduates meet the following standards:

We learn to ...
1. Write correctly, clearly and well.
2. Conduct research and gather information responsibly.
3. Edit and evaluate carefully.
4. Use media technologies thoughtfully.
5. Apply statistical concepts accurately.

We value ...
6. Free speech and First Amendment principles for all individuals and groups.
7. A diverse global community.
8. Creativity and independence.

We explore ...
10. Theories and concepts.
11. The history, structure and economy of media institutions.
12. The role of media in shaping cultures.

With these principles in mind, this course especially emphasizes issues of accuracy, truth, evaluation, creativity, diversity, global communication, technological evolution and media’s role in history and culture.
Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Electronic Communication: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities: A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty: All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies: The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.
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<td>week 1</td>
<td>21 intro &amp; overview</td>
<td>23 vernacular photography: discussion &amp; examples</td>
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<td>week 2</td>
<td>wk 2 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>DVD: Modern marvels</td>
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<td>28 origins &amp; evolution</td>
<td>23 assignment 1 discussion &amp; presentations</td>
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<td>week 3</td>
<td>wk 3 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>DVD: LIFE photographers</td>
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<td>30 assignment 1 discussion &amp; presentations</td>
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<td>week 4</td>
<td>wk 4 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>DVD: Pulitzer photos</td>
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<td>11 iconic images</td>
<td>13 assignment 2 planning &amp; preparation</td>
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<td>week 5</td>
<td>wk 5 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>MediaStorm: Marl. Marine</td>
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<td>18 war &amp; crisis</td>
<td>27 assignment 2 discussion &amp; presentations</td>
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<td>week 6</td>
<td>wk 6 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>MediaStorm: Marl. Marine</td>
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<td>25 celebrities, freaks, compassion &amp; critique</td>
<td>27 developing a critical eye: discussion &amp; practice</td>
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<td><strong>SEPT</strong></td>
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<td>week 7</td>
<td>wk 7 readings &amp; response</td>
<td>MediaStorm: Driftless</td>
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<td>2 documentary projects</td>
<td>4 mini-project planning &amp; preparation</td>
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<td>11 first half test</td>
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<td>week 8</td>
<td>9 documentary cont’d</td>
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**Calendar v.1 [as of 17-Aug-12, subject to adjustments]**
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<td>week 9</td>
<td>wk 9 readings &amp; response #7</td>
<td>16 reading National Geographic</td>
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<td>week 10</td>
<td>wk 10 readings &amp; response</td>
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<td><strong>NOV</strong></td>
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<td>week 11</td>
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<td>30 micro-lens: individuals</td>
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<td>week 12</td>
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<td>6 macro-lens: globalization</td>
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<td>week 13</td>
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<td>13 visual activism</td>
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<td><em><strong>THANKSGIVING BREAK</strong></em></td>
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<td>week 14</td>
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<td>27 community coverage; jobs &amp; internships</td>
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<td><strong>DEC</strong></td>
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<td>week 15</td>
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<td>4 citizen journalism, ethical issues &amp; digital challenges</td>
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FINALS WEEK – final version of mini-project due