

COM3215 – Photojournalism – Outline

Webster’s Dictionary defines a journalist as one who writes for, or conducts a newspaper. A reporter for a newspaper can write many different kinds of stories such as news, sports, editorial, or features. It is the job of the journalist to report the news that happens as objectively as possible. A journalist also goes out into the world and experiences life for the readers of their publication and writes about it so that the reader can know what it was like to be there.

No matter what kind of story a newspaper prints, it must communicate only what the writers and editors of that newspaper believe to be the truth. The staff of a newspaper must also conduct themselves in a fashion that upholds the truth and credibility of not just their publication, but of all newspapers. A newspaper is not worth the paper it is printed on if it has no credibility.

A publication earns credibility by reporting the truth and if they cannot verify the facts, then they don’t print it. Credibility means that every time you read a certain newspaper or website, you know you can believe what was written. Tabloids such as the National Enquirer do not have credibility. When you read a headline or story on a tabloid at the grocery store, you question whether you are reading the truth, don’t you?

All of this is the same for photojournalism. A photojournalist does the same thing a reporter does; only they use a camera instead of a notebook.

A photojournalist’s job is to go out and experience the life of others, to capture an event on film, and hopefully capture the emotion that was experienced so that other reads can see and feel what it was like to be there.

The photojournalist must capture the truth too. This means the photographer must only photograph what has happened when it happened and not recreate a situation in any way. If you miss a shot, it is gone forever. They must also not move things around on the scene of an event to make pictures look better. They must not alter their photographs on the computer, like Photoshopping out an ugly telephone pole. A photojournalist must tell the truth, just like a reporter.

Grades for the module will be assigned as follows:

Workstation Routines and Behaviour	10%	This portion of the module is based on behavior, time spent on-task, and overall workstation habits.
Assignments	20%	These assignments must all be completed. Marks will be awarded for accuracy and completeness.
Projects	50%	These projects will demonstrate your understanding of photojournalism and ability to tell a story in photographs.
Portfolio	20%	Your portfolio will include a selection of your best work. Be sure to keep all the photos you take throughout the course.