



Mansfield Legacy High School — 2011-12 Syllabus

Photojournalism

Contact info.

Mrs. Rachel Dearing
Mansfield Legacy High School
1263 N. Main St.
Mansfield, TX 76063
(817) 299-1100
Room: A-J115, office: E-0102
racheldearinger@misdmail.org
legacystudentmedia.com

Course: Photojournalism I

Placement: 9-12

Prerequisite: Student Application

Credits: ½ - 1

This course is a beginning course for students who have an interest in photography. Students who earn an average of 80 or above are invited to apply for staff positions on the high school yearbook or newspaper. No prerequisite is necessary, but because of costs associated with the course, parental approval is needed.

Supplies needed:

- \$25 lab fee
- Camera - **digital** SLR with lens or a point and shoot
- Memory cards, card reader
- Camera bag
- Manual for camera (download and print if you don't have it)
- Batteries/charger
- Jump drive or external hard drive for downloading photos
- Three-ring binder with divider pages and loose leaf paper for journals. To be left in the classroom.
- Paper or notebook for taking notes -- these won't be kept in your binder
- Folder for handouts
- Pens/pencils/Sharpie

Outline of Course

- Basics: the camera, aperture, f-stops, shutter speeds, ISO, holding camera, types of cameras
- Composition and technique
- Lighting
- Types of photography: action, portraits, storytelling, columns, news, features, spot news, illustrations, photo stories
- Captions and reporting
- Ethics, law, copyright
- Photography history
- Photoshop, photo editing

Methods of Instruction

- Lecture
- Group/individual activities
- Audio visual materials
- Discussion
- Writing assignments

• **Current Events:** Every Friday we meet will have a current events quiz. The quiz will cover what has happened in the area, state, nation and sometimes international venues. The material for the quizzes can be found in online news sources such as www.cnn.com/studentnews, www.dfw.com, dallasnews.com or any other major news source. The information can also be found watching local TV news. We will discuss the news daily, but you should become accustomed to the media and what is happening in the world around you. We will watch CNN Student News in class on a regular basis. You will receive a grade for keeping a news journal.

Course Goals

- Students utilize photography skills with overall understanding of components.
- Develop skills necessary to create a good photograph.
- Provide students with a working knowledge of publication workflow.
- Provide an overview of content and an introduction to basic photojournalism concepts.
- Students improve photography skills.

Classroom Rules

- Respect, maintain and be safe with: each other, yourself, materials and equipment
- Be an active listener.
- Stay on-task and work during class time.
- Clean up after yourself in a timely manner.
- No food or drink. Bottled water is OK.

Assessment & Grading

Assessment methods include quizzes, tests, class activities, projects and evaluation of writing and other assignments. The class is divided into two categories:

- Journals 10%
- Assignments 25%
- Quizzes 25%
- Projects and tests 40%

Grading scale — 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D

Classroom Procedures

- Tardy policy: Students should be in their assigned seat when the bell rings. Students just entering the room or up and about will be counted tardy and will need a pass to enter class. If you arrive to class tardy, get a pass from your AP quickly and return (so as not to disturb class that is already in progress).

- Assignments: Student should become accustomed to checking the board each day for an outline of the day and any assignment due dates/tests dates.

- Turning in work: Students will turn all assignments in to their assigned class period box on the filing cabinet.

- Tests: All students can retake a test they failed. A 70 percent is the highest grade a student can earn on a retake according to district policy. Retakes can be completed during a student's lunch or after school. All retakes must be completed before the end of the six week period. Midterm/final exams are not included in the retake policy.

- Late work: Late work is strongly frowned upon. In the field of journalism deadlines are extremely important. If a journalist misses a deadline most likely they will get scooped and ultimately lose pay and or employment.

- If you are absent: Students who are absent should check the purple absence folder in their assigned in box. All missed handouts/ assignments will be available in that folder. Students should check with another classmate to see what they missed and then should check with Mrs. Dearing. This should be done before class begins — ideally before school. Interrupting the teacher during class is not appropriate. Students have as many days as they were absent to complete missing assignments. Turn all absent work, labeled that you were absent, in to the proper shelf.

- Grade status: Students are strongly encouraged to view their grade status in the online gradebook. Students will be provided with a grade report at each three week grading period.

- Extra credit: While reading newspapers, you will begin to notice when words and phrases are used incorrectly. You may also notice style mistakes. Any mistake you find in a PRINTED NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE will be worth 5 points toward your current events quiz grade. You may also find photographs that are badly lit or poorly composed. To receive credit you should cut out the article/photo and identify the mistake and write a sentence describing how you would fix it and why.

- Plagiarism: Copying materials, ideas, words or phrases will not be tolerated in any fashion. Students must create their own work. Students must cite any references or resources used in this class.

- Classroom computers: Students should use proper login to gain access to the computers in the lab. Don't forget to log out after each use. Please keep your passwords private. Students will not be allowed to use computers until MISD Acceptable Use Policy is signed and returned.

- Restroom use: Students will be allowed to use the restroom ONLY during work time. Please do not ask to use the restroom when instruction is being given. If you need to use the restroom, please obtain bathroom pass from Mrs. Dearing, fill it out and give it back when returning from the restroom. Restroom breaks are a privilege.

- Desks: Students should place supplies for class on their desk, but bags should be put on the floor.

- Leaving the room: Students should obtain a pass from Mrs. Dearing any time they need to leave the room to take photos or work on assignments.

- In case of emergency:

Fire - Students should exit the room, turn left and proceed down the A-J hall to the exit at the end of the K hall. Students should exit the door to the back parking lot and gather as class for roll call.

Tornado - Students will move into the hallway outside the classroom.

Shelter in place - Students will move away from windows and doors and gather at the back of the room.