

## **COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

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| <b>Academic School/Department:</b> | Communications and The Arts                                                                    |
| <b>Programme:</b>                  | Digital Communications and Social Media<br>Communications: Media Studies<br>Film & Photography |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                 | 6                                                                                              |
| <b>Course Title:</b>               | Photojournalism                                                                                |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                | ADM 6101                                                                                       |
| <b>Total Hours:</b>                | 160                                                                                            |
| Timetabled Hours:                  | 45                                                                                             |
| Guided Learning Hours:             | 15                                                                                             |
| Independent Learning Hours:        | 100                                                                                            |
| <b>Credits:</b>                    | 16 UK CATS credits<br>8 ECTS credits<br>4 US credits                                           |

### **Course Description:**

This course concentrates on the reportage area of photography. Students learn about the history, nature, ethics, and techniques of photojournalism by studying the work of eminent practitioners and by shooting, editing, and laying out a number of documentary style projects. This course is recommended for communications, and social science students as well as photographers.

### **Prerequisites:**

*One of the following:*

ADM 3160 Foundations in Photography

COM 3101 Foundations of Media Production: Sonic Media

ADM 5405 Photography Theory & Practice

**Aims and Objectives:**

By critiquing current published work of various photojournalists and examining the styles of a number of publications, students are introduced to the various aspects of photojournalism. They put into practice the perceptions gained from their analysis in the form of mock journalistic assignments in which they are encouraged to reflect upon and interpret society's conditions.

Typical assignments include covering a daylight event, profiling a personality, covering a place or event at night, covering an indoor low-light situation, and producing a profile of a place followed by making a layout appropriate to the intended publication.

A portion of the course concentrates the students' efforts on getting involved with a local issue, area, organization etc. to adequately research and then, over a period of time, photograph extensively, edit, conduct interviews if appropriate, write the headline and captions and make the layout for a photo essay of approximately eight pages.

Examining a specific topic such as the life and work of a photojournalist, a notable period or movement in the history of the discipline or a debatable issue of importance such as those which involve ethical questions will serve to introduce the student's Photo Essay topic.

**Programme Outcomes:**

Digital Communications and Social Media: A6(iii), B6(iv), B6(ii), B6(iii), D6(i), D6(ii)

Communications: Media Studies: A6(iii), A6(iv), B6(i), B6(ii), C6(ii), D6(I), D6(ii), D6(iii)

Film and Photography: A6(i), A6(ii), A6(iii), A6(iv), B6(i), B6(ii), B6(iii), B6(iv), C6(i), C6(ii), C6(iii), C6(iv), D6(i), D6(ii), D6(iii), D6(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate fluency in the use of the digital SLR and the ability to effectively communicate their own ideas in the photojournalistic context.
- Apply the current layout software to one's own photographs and text in an appropriate publication demonstrating a systematic understanding of the interaction of the various elements and their effect on the reader.
- Demonstrate the ability to be adaptable and work flexibly in the context of a photojournalistic assignment.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the professional codes of conduct in photojournalism and incorporate this into their own practice.

**Indicative Content:**

- Introduction to history of photojournalism
- Demonstration of editing/cropping/resizing
- Layout propositions: editing/resizing/cropping/importing images
- Adobe Creative Cloud demonstration
- The effect of layout on the reader's understanding
- The photojournalistic photograph:
  - and its relation to Fine Art
  - and its relation to context (which magazine, museum etc.)

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course material is presented through lectures, demonstrations, discussions visual presentations and video projections. Practical work is assigned and reviewed at each stage of progress. The work of a variety of important photographers is viewed and discussed and museum, collection and exhibition visits are encouraged. Individual and group critiques of project work produced take place when appropriate throughout the semester.

**Indicative Texts:**

Ritchin, Fred. *Bending the Frame: Photojournalism, Documentary, and the Citizen*, Aperture. 2013

Franklin, Stuart. *The Documentary Impulse*. Phaidon, 2016

Wells, Liz. *Photography: A Critical Introduction*, Routledge, 2015.

**Web Sites:**

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/>

<https://www.worldpressphoto.org/>

*Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus*

See syllabus for complete reading list

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Change Log for this CSD:

| Nature of Change                                   | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB) | Change Actioned by Academic Registry |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Various updates as part of the UG programme review | AB Jan 2022                                  |                                      |
| Revision – Annual Update                           | May 2023                                     |                                      |
| Total Hours Updated                                | April 2024                                   |                                      |
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