

JO305 BASIC PHOTO FOR NON-MAJORS, SUMMER '17

Peter Smith, Senior Lecturer

Journalism Program, Boston University

pasmith@bu.edu

www.buphotojournalism.com

[blog for support and class notes](#)

(617) 548-0109 cell

Office: B37D, by appointment

class meets 10:15 – 12:45

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In JO305 you will learn basic photography, file management, image processing and publishing. Teamwork is essential in this course to create a strong learning environment. You will work with a partner and

other classmates on field trips to complete assignments and to get help with an edit by fresh eyes. Teamwork will also create a safer environment as we use Boston as our classroom. Throughout this course we will focus on areas of esthetics, light and moment and complete a number of exercises to strengthen our photo technique and prepare us for documentary challenges as we learn to capture a sense of place, to document the famous and to define the world around us in compelling photographs.

JO305 is a basic digital photo course that covers camera operation, image processing, image tagging and publishing. Most assignments will be processed in black and white. Color is introduced later in the course.

The 10 shooting assignments in JO305 cover portraiture, motion, depth-of-field, hot-shoe flash, night photography color, and you will photograph a famous person, shoot a selfie, produce a 10 picture photo essay and to create a blog.

JO305 covers the basics of Lightroom and WordPress.

We will also cover digital hygiene, nondestructive editing, color correction, image toning, sharpening, tagging, caption writing and understanding resolution.

RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Photoshop tools may not be used in this class to alter the meaning of an image. Cropping is not allowed. Students will upload assignments to the class **Smugmug** account.

Photo equipment is available for your use but it is recommended that students have their own DSLR camera if possible, with storage card (minimum 32 gig) a 50mm lens or a zoom lens that can be set to 50mm. Students are **required** to have a USB3 hard drive. A camera will not be needed until the second class. There are handouts available for all assignments.

See: <http://buphotojournalism.com/classes/jo305/jo305-handouts/>

REQUIRED READING:

The **New York Times** (30 – 60 minutes daily)

The New York Times Lens Blog (keep current)

There will be a pop quiz during the semester on NYT front page reporting – worth 5 pts.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week One

First Lecture: May 23

INTRODUCTION: Review syllabus and basic **photo settings** of aperture (f-stop), shutter speed, ISO, lens speed; view gallery of past **student work**. Students will need an **external hard drive** by Thursday May 26.

Home work: Review **Cheat-sheet** to understand ISO, aperture and shutter speed. Understand the **exposure triangle**.

Second Lecture: May 24, – **FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY – bring gear**.

We will cover camera operation, menu settings and exposure, filing system, color management and digital hygiene. Create a blog.

View [Portraits](#) gallery:

Portraits handout

Photograph face of an individual (a) in bright sunlight, (b) on a cloudy day. Bring CF/SD card and camera to class to review camera settings and making exposure decisions using camera's light meter.

Portraits: 10pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)

Third Lecture: May 25

Bring CF/SD card to class with assignments 1&2 to download files to Lightroom Library. We will discuss tagging, converting files to black and white and exporting hi-res jpegs. We'll review Lightroom browser and functions.

Week Two

Fourth Lecture: May 30

Images from **assignment 1, Portraits** are DUE and must be uploaded by the end of class. Post best shot to blog.

Class notes

Focus gallery

Focus handout:

Choose a general scene with infinite distance apparent in background with a person 8 feet from the camera. Shoot at (a) 1/1000 with wide aperture, also shoot at (b) f/16 with slower shutter speed. Use your camera's meter for correct exposure.

Focus: 10pts (exercise, esthetics)

Fifth Lecture: May 31 – **FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY** –

bring gear

Park Square, meet by the fountain near Park Station.

We will work on depth-of-field concepts and on documenting a place. (Boston as a classroom)

Sixth Lecture: June 1

Images from **assignment 2, Focus** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot.

[Creative Shutter gallery](#)

[Assignment 3 handout](#)

Photograph Stop Action and Panning.

Use fast and slow shutter to photograph

(a) car on Storrow Drive (b) someone walking down steps

(c) a bicycle in motion.

Creative shutter: 10pts (exercise, documentary, esthetics)

Week Three

Seventh Lecture: June 6

Images from **assignment 3, Creative Shutter** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot. Add header image and tag.

flash gallery!

Creative Flash handout

Turn in 3 of 5 examples of flash technique: (a) two heads using direct flash, (b) fill-flash with direct flash, (c) bounce flash portrait, (d) open flash, direct and not synchronized, and (e) a group of ten people.

Eighth Lecture: June 7 – **FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY,**

bring gear – including flash

Seaport District/Fort Point – meet at the park next to 249 A Street at 10 a.m. for a visit to studio #31, at 249 A Street. We will discuss strobes and studio lighting! (exercise, Boston as a classroom, esthetics)

Ninth Lecture: June 8

Images from **assignment 4, Flash!** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot.

Night Photography gallery

Flash handout

Shoot night scenes of (a) incident light and (b) reflected light night scenes (tripod needed).

Flash: 5pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)

Week Four

Tenth Lecture: June 13

Images from **assignment 5, Night** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot. Create 'about me' page for blog.

Silhouette:

Silhouette handout

Photograph silhouette, a backlit subject exposing meter for the bright background.

Silhouette: 5pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)

Eleventh Lecture: June 14 – **FIELD TRIP WEDNESDAY, bring gear**

Field trip to North End. Meet at the Paul Revere Statue. Get ready to shoot portraits of North Enders and to

photograph a sense of place.

(Boston as a classroom, documentary)

Twelfth Lecture: June 15

Images from **assignment 6, silhouette** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot.

Color gallery

Color handout

Shoot a color photograph with strong color contrast and process that image three ways. Second, using a daylight setting for your white balance, shoot photos with heavy overcast for blue light and shoot with very warm light from sunset. Use color to enhance mood of image.

Color: 5pts (documentary, lighting, esthetics)

Week Five

Thirteenth Lecture: June 20

Images from **assignment 7, Color** are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot. Add 'best of' gallery.

[Self Portrait gallery](#)

[Self Portrait handout](#)

Photograph a self-portrait (taken inside without a flash). Environmental or tight shots okay. Quality of light is important.

Self: 5pts (exercise, lighting, branding)

Fourteenth Lecture: June 21 – **FIELD TRIP**
WEDNESDAY – bring gear

Field trip to Chinatown. Meet at the Chinatown Gate.

Fifteenth Lecture: June 22

Images from assignment 8, self portrait are DUE. Upload to Smugmug and post best shot.

[Famous Person](#) gallery

[Famous portrait](#) handout

Photograph a famous person who does not work for BU.

Famous person: 10pts (documentary)

Week Six

Sixteenth Lecture: June 27, review blog final requirements. Add 'photo essay' page.

Shooting assignment 10

The Photo Essay handout

Shoot a 10-picture photo essay. Grad students are required to shoot a photo essay that is ready for publication. Photograph a Boston Neighborhood. You must use photos from three shoots of the neighborhood. The images should be uploaded to Smugmug and also presented as a gallery on your blog.

Final photo story: 20pts (documentary)

Seventeenth Lecture: June 28 – **FIELD TRIP
WEDNESDAY, bring gear**

Field trip. Museum of Fine Arts.

(aesthetics, documentary, Boston as a classroom)

Eighteenth Lecture: June 29 – **Final Class**

Assignment 10, Photo Essay and **assignment 11, Blog** due.

Blog: 10pts (publishing)

CLASS POLICIES:

Students are required to be on time, no unexcused absences. Students may not be online checking email, social media or text messaging during lectures or they will lose a full grade for the course. Students may not use Photoshop or any other program to alter the meaning of a photograph. All captions must be truthful and accurate.

Students must be familiar with college handbook and have a full understanding of expected code and conduct. The academic code of conduct is fully explained at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/academic-conduct-code/>

BU POLICY ON RECORDING CLASSES

Please note that classroom proceedings for this course might be recorded for purposes including, but not limited to, student illness, religious holidays, disability accommodations, or student course review. Note also that

recording devices are prohibited in the classroom except with the instructor's permission.

GRADING:

There are a total of 11 projects due during the semester and a general knowledge quiz on NYT.com stories. They are rated as follows:

1. **Portraits:** 10pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)
2. **Focus:** 10pts (exercise, esthetics)
3. **Creative shutter:** 10pts (documentary, esthetics)
4. **Night:** 10pts (documentary, sense of place, scene setter)
5. **Flash:** 5pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)
6. **Silhouette:** 5pts (exercise, lighting, esthetics)
7. **Color:** 5pts (documentary, lighting, esthetics)
8. **Self:** 5pts (exercise, lighting, branding)
9. **Famous person:** 10pts (documentary)
10. **Final photo story:** 15pts (documentary)
11. **Blog:** 10pts (publishing)

12. Quiz: 5pts On NYT.com

Grades are based on quality, content and punctuality of work submitted. Late assignments lose one grade point (A to B) for each week they are late. Assignments not turned in receive an F. The final grade is an average of all grades received during the semester. Assignments are DUE at the end of class.

Percentage-based Grade Scale

A : 93-100	B+ : 87-89.99	C+ : 77-79.99
D : 60-69.99	F : 0-59.99	
A- : 90-92.99	B : 83-86.99	C : 73-76.99
B- : 80-82.99	C- : 70-72.99	

GPA conversion

A : 4.0	B+ : 3.3	C+ : 2.3	D : 1.0	F : 0.0
A- : 3.7	B : 3.0	C : 2.0		
B- : 2.7	C- : 1.7			

GRADING RUBRIC:

Each assignment is graded on the following:

- Technical (40%): Camera (exposure) settings and focus. Toning adjustments and sharpening.
- Demonstration of assignment concept (40%)
- Captioning and metadata (20%)

For the final photo story – technical, concept, and text/metadata will be weighted equally.

Blog will be graded on two galleries (best work and photo story); about me page; posts of all assignments, use of tags and categories.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After shooting 10 assignments students will be able to:
Shoot portraits, freeze action, create motion through panning technique, photograph incident and reflective light at night with a tripod and use a flash.

Produce well-toned, tagged images and publish them in their own blog.

Produce well-framed, strongly composed images that are properly exposed with good use of lighting – all to industry standards.

Communicate with strong black and white photographs and be capable of producing a color image that is color corrected and has thoughtful use of color.

Understand the broader concepts of photojournalism.

Gain photographic visual literacy, with the ability to deconstruct how an image was created and to better understand a photograph's manipulations, biases and narrative.

Develop a strong visual awareness and strong observational skills.