

**JOUR 499: Capturing Truth:
Exploring the Power and Impact of Photojournalism on Society**

Online Course

Winter Session 2024-2025

3 Credit Hours

Instructor:

Renée Ittner-McManus

803-622-4054 mobile

mcmanski@mailbox.sc.edu

Office: SJMC 331

Zoom Office Hours: By appointment

Academic Bulletin Description

Explore the multifaceted role of photojournalism with its unique power to bring awareness to societal issues, connect us to others and inspire change.

Full Course Description

The course "Capturing Truth: Exploring the Power and Impact of Photojournalism on Society" represents an exciting opportunity to explore the role of photojournalism in shaping our understanding of the world.

Photojournalism is an incredible passport into people's lives that has the unique power to bring awareness, connect us to others and inspire change. Studying the impact of documentary photography not only enriches our appreciation for visual storytelling but also equips us with the tools to be informed, empathetic, and socially conscious global citizens.

Photojournalism has the power to uniquely evoke emotions and bridge cultural and geographical divides. By bringing distant events and realities into the public eye, powerful images can foster empathy and understanding, encouraging solidarity and support for those in need.

As National Geographic photographer Lynn Cobb states, "It is a privilege to tell someone's story and it's a privilege to learn from people because how do we grow? We grow by being in the presence of people who are different than we are and who can show us the world in a different way."

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes

All learning outcomes in this course are equivalent to the face-to-face (F2F) version of this course. After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze the historical evolution of photojournalism and the role of iconic images in shaping public opinion.
2. Examine the ethical responsibilities of photojournalists, including issues of truthfulness, objectivity, and representation
3. Evaluate the role of photojournalism in raising awareness of social justice issues and advocating for positive change.
4. Analyze and interpret photographic images critically, understanding the elements of composition, lighting, and the iconic moment that contribute to the images' meaning and impact.
5. Cultivate empathy and compassion toward the subjects depicted in photojournalistic images, recognizing their humanity and the ethical imperative to represent their stories with dignity and respect.

Course Materials

No additional materials needed beyond online access. All readings, videos, discussions and quizzes will be accessible online via Blackboard.

Course Format

This is a fully online course. Online classes are not easier than face-to-face lecture classes. This is the same workload as a full semester course presented in an accelerated three-week winter session. To succeed in an online class, you must be extremely motivated and well-organized. All course materials are available via Blackboard. Regular internet access is essential for successful completion of the course.

All course material, assignments and quizzes will be open as soon as the course is accessible. While the course is designed with daily assignments, **you can work ahead on any of the assignments** and may structure your workload as suits your schedule as long as all deadlines are met. Note that some assignments include both discussions and quizzes.

Deadlines: No late work is accepted, and no partial credit is given. All assignments are due before midnight on the due date. Discussions and quizzes will automatically close at the deadline, even if partially completed. Due to the open format of this course with the ability to complete any assignment days ahead of deadlines, internet outages, computer failures and other technological delays are not accepted excuses for missed deadlines. Plan to work ahead of deadlines to allow time to problem solve any potential delays.

The typical class structure will consist of daily modules, which include:

- Short videos
- Readings
- Online Discussions
- Quizzes

This is an entirely Web-based course. We have no face-to-face class meetings, and you will complete your work asynchronously – which simply means that you will be working on it at different times than your colleagues. You can log into the class to do your work at whatever time is convenient for you as long as you are meeting class deadlines.

It is important to understand that this is not an independent study. You will have assigned deadlines, and work must be submitted on time. You may work ahead but you may not save up your assignments to complete in the last weeks or days of the semester.

Course Communication and Feedback

I will communicate with you as needed regarding grades and assignments. If you need to get in touch with me, the best method is via email. Please do not reach out via Blackboard. Generally, I will reply to emails within 24 hours. If you are having trouble with this course or its material, you should contact me via email to discuss the issues.

Announcements will be posted to this course whenever necessary. If there is any other information that I think is important, then I will send it to your email address listed in Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email account works properly in order to receive email.

Below is how you check your email address in Blackboard:

- Access blackboard.sc.edu
- Click your name on the main Blackboard navigation panel on the left
- Review your email address. By default, Blackboard uses your university-issued email address

Your email address in Blackboard coincides with your preferred university email. If you are unsure of your preferred email, [check your account](#) (myaccount.sc.edu). For more information on setting your preferred university email, please see the [How To Change Your Primary University Email Address](#) Knowledge Base article (https://sprod.service-now.com/sp?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0011464).

Module Schedule

All course deadlines are listed in Eastern Time Zone. Blackboard will record all deadlines in this time zone. If you are in a different time zone, then plan accordingly.

Technology Requirements

Online materials will be provided through Blackboard. Therefore, you must have access to the internet to view/hear the posted videos and readings. No special software is required.

The daily folders have links to articles, readings, discussion assignments, and quizzes. To participate in learning activities and complete assignments, you will need daily access, preferably at home, to:

- The internet and a computer which can be used at any time, controlled and configured as required for assignments, access to resources, and for communication. The computer should have a current operating system with updates installed, plus speakers or headphones to hear videos.
- USC email account
- A current web browser that is compatible with Blackboard (Google Chrome is the recommended browser for Blackboard)
 - macOS™ - Apple Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox.
 - Windows™ - Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox;
- Blackboard Learning Management System

Microsoft Office 365 is available for free to all students. Students have access to the latest versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and much more. You can install Office 365 on up to five compatible devices, including five tablet devices. All work can be saved online in OneDrive so it can be accessed no matter which device is being used. You can use this Office 365 subscription for as long as you are a student at the University of South Carolina. [Download Office 365](#).

All computers that connect to a university network must have current, up-to-date **antivirus software**. Antivirus software is included with Microsoft Windows; however, it is not included on Macs. If your computer does not have antivirus software, the [Carolina Tech Zone](#) can assist you.

If you have further questions or need help with the software, please contact the [Division of Information Technology's Service Desk](#)

Minimum Technical Skills Needed

Minimum technical skills are needed in this course. All work in this course must be completed and submitted online through Blackboard. Therefore, you must have consistent and reliable access to a computer and the internet. The minimum technical skills you have include the ability to:

- Use USC email and attach files
- Check email and Blackboard daily
- Upload images or screenshots to Blackboard
- Locate information with a browser
- Use Blackboard.

Technical Support

If you have questions or problems related to your computer, software, or need technical support (including Blackboard support), please contact the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) Service Desk at (803) 777-1800, submit an online request through the [Self-Service Portal](https://scprod.service-now.com/sp) (<https://scprod.service-now.com/sp>), or visit the [Carolina Tech Zone](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/end_user_services/available_technology_resources/carolina_tech_zone/) (https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/end_user_services/available_technology_resources/carolina_tech_zone/). The Service Desk is open Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM (Eastern Time). You may also visit DoIT's website for [available technology resources](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/end_user_services/available_technology_resources/) (https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/end_user_services/available_technology_resources/).

If you have computer issues/problems, then there is a computer lab available at the Thomas Cooper Library and in certain campus classroom buildings. If you are not located in the Columbia, SC area, then most regional campuses and public libraries have computers for public use.

Course Assignments and Grading

Quizzes

Each quiz will be based on the readings and/or videos presented in each folder. These will be multiple-choice questions. Quizzes will be automatically graded. Quizzes must be completed in their entirety prior to the deadline. All quizzes are secured in Blackboard. Quizzes automatically cut off at 11:59 on any given deadline date. The questions will be submitted that have been completed but you will not have an opportunity to complete unfinished questions. You may take quizzes days or hours ahead of the scheduled deadline to avoid an incomplete quiz.

Discussion Boards

Some topics will include discussions as a graded assignment. You will read or view posted materials and engage in the discussion boards set up in Blackboard. Respect and critical thinking as well as forming your own opinion on the impact of some selected photographs will guide these discussions. You will receive feedback on these within 72 hours of the posted deadline for the response.

Note that some of the discussions contain both a discussion post and, at a later date, the response. Each portion of the assignment must be submitted at the time due in order to get any point credits. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on a given date. If the posted time on a discussion is after that time, it will not be counted, even if the post was begun prior to deadline.

Discussion board posts are a significant part of this course. Students will follow these "Netiquette" guidelines:

- Be respectful: Avoid sarcasm, offensive language, and making fun of others' abilities. Be mindful of others' feelings and opinions and remember that they are real people.
- Respect privacy: Don't share personal or professional information about classmates.
- Think before you type: Check your messages carefully before sending them to ensure you've said what you meant and how others might interpret it.
- Be open-minded: Be willing to share different opinions and engage in healthy discourse based on scholarly ideas or research.
- Use correct spelling and grammar: Proofread your work for mistakes.
- Introduce yourself: Use others' names when responding to them.

Evaluation and Grading Scale

All grades will be posted on Blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to check your scores in Blackboard regularly. A final letter grade will be assigned based on percentages.

Assignment Weights	Points
Discussions	250
Quizzes	600
Total	850

Grading Scale

90-100% = 765-850 points = A
 85-89% = 723-764 points = B+
 80-84% = 680-722 points = B
 75-79% = 638-679 points = C+
 70-74% = 595-637 points = C
 65-69% = 553 - 594 points = D+
 60-64% = 510 - 552 points = D
 0- 60% = 0 - 509 points = F

Attendance Policy

[Resource: View the [Interfaith Calendar](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_experts/our_offices/student_life/spiritual_religious_life/interfaith_calendar/index.php)

(https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_experts/our_offices/student_life/spiritual_religious_life/interfaith_calendar/index.php). The Interfaith Calendar showcases religious holy days, observances, and recommended accommodations for students, staff, and faculty.]

Success in this course is dependent on your active participation throughout the winter session. You are expected to log into Blackboard frequently to complete course assignments. Even if your work is completed, you still need to login to ensure that you have seen all announcements and discussion posts. It is your responsibility to check updates related to the course.

As a partner in your learning, it is important to both of us that any assignment submission is a pure reflection of your work and understanding. Suspicions of alleged violations of cheating – defined as “unauthorized assistance in connection with any academic work” and/or Falsification, which includes “Misrepresenting or misleading others with respect to academic work or misrepresenting facts for an academic advantage” including use of AI– will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity.

You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in academic penalty of course failure and will result in additional disciplinary measures. This includes improper citation of sources, using another student's work, and any other form of academic misrepresentation.

The first tenet of the Carolinian Creed is, "I will practice personal and academic integrity." Below are some websites for you to visit to learn more about University policies:

- [Carolinian Creed](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_initiatives/involvement_and_leadership/carolinian_creed/index.php)
(https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_initiatives/involvement_and_leadership/carolinian_creed/index.php)
- [Academic Responsibility](http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf) (<http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf>)
- [Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/)
(<https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>)
- [Information Security Policy and Standards](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/security/policy/index.php)
(https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/security/policy/index.php)

Plagiarism

- Using the words or ideas of another as if they were one's own is a serious form of academic dishonesty. If another person's complete sentence, syntax, key words, or the specific or unique ideas and information are used, one must give that person credit through proper citation.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) Policy

- In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work is not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism and result in a fail of the course.

Academic Success

Successful online learners:

1. Do not procrastinate;
2. Are open to sharing professional experiences online;
3. Enhance online discussions;
4. Have good written communication skills;
5. Use proactive communication;
6. Are self-motivated and self-disciplined;
7. Have a commitment to learning;
8. Have critical thinking and decision-making skills;
9. Believe quality learning can take place in an online environment; and
10. Have good time management skills.

Disability Services

The [Student Disability Resource Center](http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/) (SDRC) (<http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/>) empowers students to manage challenges and limitations imposed by disabilities. In order to receive reasonable accommodations from me, you must be registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (1705 College Street, Close-Hipp Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-6142). Any student with a documented disability should contact the SDRC to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations. Once registered, students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me (within the first week of the semester) to discuss the logistics of any accommodations needed to fulfill course requirements.

Counseling Services

The University offers [counseling and crisis services](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/counseling-and-psychiatry/index.php) (https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/counseling-and-psychiatry/index.php) as well as outreach services, self-help, and frequently asked questions.

Mental Health

If stress is impacting you or getting in the way of your ability to do your schoolwork, maintain relationships, eat, sleep, or enjoy yourself, then please reach out to any of USC's mental health resources. Most of these services are offered at no cost as they are covered by the Student Health Services tuition fee. For all available mental health resources, check out [Student Health Services Mental Health](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/) (https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/) and the quick reference list below.

- Wellness Coaching can help you improve in areas related to emotional and physical well-being (e.g., sleep, resiliency, balanced eating and more) – schedule an appointment at (803) 777-6518 or on [MyHealthSpace](https://myhealthspace.ushs.sc.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx) (https://myhealthspace.ushs.sc.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx)

- Access virtual self-help modules via [Therapy Assistance Online \(TAO\)](https://us.taoconnect.org/register) (<https://us.taoconnect.org/register>) – see [TAO registration instructions](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/24_hour_online_support/index.php) (https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student-health-well-being/mental-health/24_hour_online_support/index.php).
- Access additional articles and videos on health and wellness topics on the Wellness Hub, thriveatcarolina.com, or by downloading the [CampusWell](https://www.campuswell.com/) (<https://www.campuswell.com/>) app and searching for University of South Carolina.
- Counseling & Psychiatry offers individual and group counseling and psychiatric services – schedule an appointment at (803) 777-5223 or on [MyHealthSpace](https://myhealthspace.ushs.sc.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx) (https://myhealthspace.ushs.sc.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx).
- Access the 24-hr Mental Health Support Line at (833) 664-2854.
- Access an anonymous [mental health screening program](https://www.uscscreeing.org/welcome.cfm?access=website) (<https://www.uscscreeing.org/welcome.cfm?access=website>).

Interpersonal Violence

Interpersonal violence - including sexual harassment, relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking - is prohibited at USC. Faculty, staff, and administrators encourage anyone experiencing interpersonal violence to speak with someone, so they can get the necessary support and USC can respond appropriately. If you or someone you know has been or is currently impacted by interpersonal violence, you can find the appropriate resources at the [Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention & Prevention \(SAVIP\)](https://sc.edu/safety/interpersonal-violence/index.php) (<https://sc.edu/safety/interpersonal-violence/index.php>) website.

As faculty, I must report all incidents of interpersonal violence and sexual misconduct, and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. Please know that you can seek [confidential resources](https://sc.edu/safety/interpersonal-violence/index.php) (<https://sc.edu/safety/interpersonal-violence/index.php>). If you want to make a formal report, you can [report interpersonal violence and sexual misconduct](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofSouthCarolina&layout_id=25) (https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofSouthCarolina&layout_id=25) or contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator, or one of the Deputy Title IX Coordinators listed on the SAVIP website. You can also file a police report by contacting USC Police at 803-777-4215.

Incomplete Grades

You may be assigned an 'I' (Incomplete) grade if you are unable to complete a significant portion of the assigned course work because of an unanticipated illness, accident, work-related responsibility, family hardship, or verified learning disability. An Incomplete grade gives you additional time to complete course assignments ONLY IF there is indication that the specified circumstances prevented you from completing course assignments on time.

Expectations of the Instructor

I am expected to facilitate learning, answer questions appropriately, be fair and objective in grading, provide timely and useful feedback on assignments, maintain adequate office hours, and treat you as I would like to be treated.

Diversity, Ethics, and the Carolinian Creed

This course works to foster a climate free of harassment and discrimination, and it values the contributions of all forms of **diversity**. The decision to enter university and pursue advanced study is a choice that entails commitment to personal **ethics** expressed in the [Carolinian Creed](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_initiatives/involvement_and_leadership/carolinian_creed/index.php) (https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_affairs/our_initiatives/involvement_and_leadership/carolinian_creed/index.php): “I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions.” Likewise, the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf626.pdf) (STAF 6.26: <http://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/staf626.pdf>) stresses, “The University of South Carolina strives to maintain an educational community that fosters the development of students who are ethical, civil and responsible persons.”

Title IX and Gendered Pronouns

This course affirms equality and respect for all gendered identities and expressions. Please don’t hesitate to correct me regarding your preferred gender pronoun and/or name if different from what is indicated on the official class roster. Likewise, I am committed to nurturing an environment free from discrimination and harassment. Consistent with Title IX policy, please be aware that I as a responsible employee am obligated to report information that you provide to me about a situation involving discrimination, sexual harassment, or assault.

Assignments: This course has daily folders on Blackboard labeled with their due dates. Within those folders are any reading materials or videos to review prior to completing the discussions and/or quizzes for that unit. All assignments are available to complete when the course opens. Only assignments requiring you to comment on classmates’ discussions would require you to wait until other students post. You are encouraged to work ahead at your own pace to fit your schedule as long as the due dates are not missed.

Topic	Quizzes & Discussions	Due Date
Introductions & Inspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Introduction & Quote 	Dec 30
Power of Photojournalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Photojournalism Quiz • The Power of Photojournalism Quiz 	Dec 31
The Beginning: Crimean War and Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Discussion on Classmates’ Introduction & Quote posts • Crimean & Civil War Photography Quiz 	Jan 1
African American Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African American Representation Quiz 	Jan 2

Topic	Quizzes & Discussions	Due Date
Street Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Street Life by John Thomson Quiz 	Jan 3
Jacob Riis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob Riis Quiz 	Jan 4
Lewis Hine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis Hine & Child Labor Quiz • Discussion: Hine & Riis 	Jan 5
Golden Age of Photojournalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Age of Photojournalism Quiz 	Jan 6
Dorothea Lange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothea Lange Quiz 	Jan 7
FSA Project: Stryker & Rothstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stryker, Rothstein and FSA Quiz • Response to Hine & Riis Discussion 	Jan 8
Margaret Bourke-White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Bourke-White Quiz 	Jan 9
Robert Capa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Capa Quiz 	Jan 10
Henri Cartier-Bresson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartier-Bresson Quiz • Discussion: Cartier-Bresson 	Jan 11
Gordon Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Parks Quiz • Response to Cartier-Bresson Discussion 	Jan 12
W. Eugene Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Eugene Smith Quiz 	Jan 13

Topic	Quizzes & Discussions	Due Date
Eli Reed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eli Reed Quiz 	Jan 14
What Makes a Great Photo?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Makes a Great Photo Discussion 	Jan 15
Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photojournalism Ethics Quiz • Response to What Makes a Great Photo Discussion 	Jan 16
Ethics Kevin Carter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on ethics including Kevin Carter 	Jan 17
Protest Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protest Coverage Quiz 	Jan 18
What's Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future of Photojournalism Quiz 	Jan 19