

300 Visual Storytelling Overview

Professor Carol E. Holstead

(she/her/hers)

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Office hours: 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MW

Also available by appointment

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WHY YOU'RE TAKING THIS COURSE

Design is the entry point to everything we read. Design skills are now required of all journalism professionals. This is an intro course that will cover the theories, concepts and principles of visual communication and design production techniques. The course will not make you an expert designer, but it will give you the tools to understand, talk about and practice design.

GOALS

- Learn the basics of good design, typography, photography, video, color theory and infographics.
- Learn the essentials in the most widely used design software.
- Learn how to constructively critique by evaluating your own work and the work of classmates.
- Learn how to think critically and creatively to solve design problems
- Think about the relationship between media and audience and learn how to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

ASSESSMENT

Learning outcomes in this class will be evaluated through tests and projects.

MATERIALS

- *The Non-Designer's Design Book*, fourth edition, by Robin Williams
- *Design Is Storytelling*, by Ellen Lupton
- Readings as assigned on Blackboard. Please check weekly for readings.
- Video tutorials in InDesign produced for this class by the J-School's technical director. Videos are available on JSchoolTech.org
- Adobe InDesign. This software program is available on all J-School computers, but you can rent all Adobe apps for photography, design, video and web through a special offer for students. The cost is \$19.99 a month, but requires a year contract (\$239) to get that price.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Four InDesign projects:** These are the centerpiece of the class and will orient you to all the tools in InDesign.

InDesign Project 1: Form & Shape

:: For this assignment you will show basic understanding of InDesign with little stress on creativity or detail. You will simply create shapes, filling them with colors and create some lines and columns. (20 points)

InDesign Project 2: Resume :: This

project will give you practice in using and laying out type effectively. You will design a resume showcasing your educational, professional and personal achievements. (50 points)

InDesign Project 3: Photo Layout ::

Using photos and text provided, you will lay out a two-page spread. (50 points)

InDesign Project 4: Color :: Much like

the first lesson on form and shape, this lesson will focus on InDesign skills rather than creativity. You will be supplied an InDesign template on which you will build a color wheel and create color schemes. (20 points)

- **Photo Narrative Series** :: As our first visual assignment, you will create a set of three images that tells a story with a beginning, middle and end. (50 points)
- **Video Postcard** :: You will document a location on campus by making a short and simple video showcasing that place's sights and sounds. (50 points)
- **Infographic** :: To show off all your visual and InDesign skills, you will create an infographic as your final project. (100 points)

LECTURES

Will expand on readings and the text.

You will want to take good notes that go beyond the main points of slides. Material from the lectures will be on the tests.

Note taking: You may use a laptop to take notes in this class, but laptops offer distractions, and I can tell when students are not paying attention, in which case I may ask you what are you doing that is more important than class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

I don't take attendance in this class, but attending class will help you do better on assignments and tests. I do not post lectures on Blackboard, and I provide a lot of examples in class to help you with projects. **This is a visual class and you need to see the lectures.** So it benefits you to attend and pay attention.

TESTS

Two exams worth 80 points total (Exam 1 is worth 50 points; exam 2 is worth 30 points) will cover lectures and readings. I do not give makeup tests without a verifiable excuse.

RULES TO LIVE BY

- InDesign assignments are due at the start of class. Expect technical difficulties and do not wait until the last minute to print out work.
- Late assignments will lose a letter grade each class period late, and will not be accepted after one week from the due date.**
- All assignments must be turned in printed out. I will not print out assignments for you.
- You are welcome to submit assignments early.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

- Try not to be late. If you are late, come in the side door.
- Email: I get a ton of it. Please keep your emails as short as possible, and put J300 plus the subject in the subject line.

ABOUT PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Any student who turns in work that is not their own on any assignment will receive a 0 on that assignment. You may also be subject to J-School penalties on cheating and plagiarism, which can include expulsion from the School of Journalism.

For InDesign

When you are working on your InDesign projects and on the infographic, the work

should be your own. What I mean is this: your hand should be on the mouse, making the mouse clicks and doing the InDesign work. It is fine to enlist help from friends, teaching assistants and others. But your hands should be making the key strokes and the mouse clicks. And each student should be working from his/her own document.

Not one semester has gone by that we have not caught students turning in "shared" assignments. We are experts at spotting duplicate assignments.

Testing in this course is multiple-choice, using machine graded Scantron forms.

Anyone who looks at test forms of other students will fail that test. Students who allow other students to see the test form also will fail that test.

GRADING

Your course grade will be based on the following.

2 tests	80 points
4 InDesign assignments	140 points
Photo Narrative	50 points
Video Postcard	50
Infographic	100 points
Workshops	20 points

Grading Scale is posted on Blackboard
VERY IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT GRADES:

If you want to be a journalism major, you must get a C (a full-on C, not a C-) in this class to continue in the J-School.

Important add/drop deadlines:

- Feb. 10 (Monday): Last day to drop a full semester class and without a "W"
- April 20 (Monday): Last day to withdraw or drop a course. The transcript will show a "W."

THIS IS AN INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM

In J300 all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, veteran status, citizenship status, nationality and other diverse identities that we each bring to class.

I encourage you to speak up and express your views, but please remember to be respectful of other points of view.

If you are having difficulty affording groceries, or lack a safe and stable place to live please contact me or Student Affairs for support (studentaffairs@ku.edu). Other resources you may find helpful:

- Student Emergency Assistance Fund: <https://studentaffairs.ku.edu/emergency-assistance-students>
- Free food at the Campus Cupboard: <http://www.cco.ku.edu/food/>
- Free Legal Services for Students: www.legalservices.ku.edu
- Counseling and Psychological Services, <http://caps.ku.edu/>

300 Visual Storytelling Schedule

Spring 2020

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY
10 – 10:50

WEEK 1

Wednesday 1/22
Introduction
READ: NDDDB, Ch. 1 DIS, 9 – 33

Friday 1/24
DEMO: The mechanics of Indesign, project #1 Basics

WEEK 2

Monday 1/27
LECTURE: Photo introduction, power in imagery
READ: DIS, 34 – 55

Wednesday 1/29
Photo Narrative assigned

Friday 1/31
LECTURE: Photo composition
HANDOUT: Concept sheet for Photo Narrative Series

WEEK 3

Monday 2/3
LECTURE: Lighting in photography. Bring a camera (phones are fine) to class
PROJECT #1 Basics DUE
READ: DIS, 59 – 81

Wednesday 2/5
LECTURE: 10 Must-have Photos | Eric Thomas

Friday 2/7
LECTURE: Photo ethics
Concept Sheet DUE

WEEK 4

Monday 2/10
LECTURE: Photo ethics

Wednesday 2/12
LECTURE: Design Is Storytelling
READ: DIS, 82 – 103

Friday 2/14
LECTURE: Video storytelling

WEEK 5

Monday 2/17
Video postcard assigned

Wednesday 2/19
Photo Narrative workshop

Friday 2/21
Infographics
READ: NDDDB, Ch. 9 – 12

WEEK 6

Monday 2/24
LECTURE: Typography
DEMO: InDesign project #2 Resume
READ: NDDDB, Ch. 4, 5,

Wednesday 2/26
LECTURE: Typography
Photo Narrative Series DUE

Friday 2/28
LECTURE: Typography
READ: NDDDB, Ch. 2 – 6

WEEK 7

Monday 3/2
LECTURE: Layout | Contrast and Repetition

Wednesday 3/4
LECTURE: Layout | Proximity

Friday 3/6
LECTURE: Layout | Alignment
READ: DIS, 126 – 151
Video Postcard Series DUE

WEEK 8

3/9 – 3/13
Spring Break

WEEK 9

Monday 3/16
Managing photos in InDesign

Wednesday 3/18
Resume workshop

Friday 3/20
Test 1 Review

WEEK 10

Monday 3/23
Test 1

Wednesday 3/25
LECTURE: Infographics
PROJECT # 2 Resume DUE

Friday 3/26
LECTURE: Infographics

WEEK 11

Monday 3/30
Layout workshop GROUP 1
Infographic ideas DUE

Wednesday 4/1
Layout workshop GROUP 2

Friday 4/3
Layout workshop GROUP 3
READ: NDDDB, Ch. 7
DIS, 104 – 124

WEEK 12

Monday 4/6
LECTURE: Color
PROJECT # 3 Layout DUE

Wednesday 4/8
LECTURE: Color

Friday 4/10
DEMO: InDesign project #4 Color Wheel

WEEK 13

Monday 4/13
LECTURE: Gestalt

Wednesday 4/15
LECTURE: Semiotics
PROJECT #4 Color Wheel DUE

Friday 4/17
Writing copy for an infographic

WEEK 14

Monday 4/20
Test 2 Review

Wednesday 4/22
Test 2

Friday 4/24

WEEK 15

Monday 4/27
IG workshop GROUP 1

Wednesday 4/29
IG workshop GROUP 2

Friday 4/30
IG workshop GROUP 3

WEEK 16

Monday 5/4
IG workshop GROUP 4

Wednesday 5/6
IG workshop GROUP 5

Infographic DUE
Final Exam Day
Wednesday, 5/13
9 - 10 a.m.
During our final period you will share and turn in your infographics and fill out a self-reflection. You do not take a final test in this class.

JOURNALISM SCHOOL POLICIES

Policy on Plagiarism and Fabrication/Falsification -- Adopted May 7, 2004:

The William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications does not tolerate plagiarism, fabrication of evidence and falsification of evidence. Penalties for plagiarism, fabrication or falsification can include a failing grade for this course and expulsion from the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, please consult the professor(s) of this course.

The following definitions are from Article II, Section 6, of the University Senate Rules and Regulations, revised FY98.

Plagiarism : Knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source). The sole exception to the requirement of acknowledging sources is when the information or ideas are common knowledge.

Fabrication and Falsification: Unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Journalism School Policy on Classroom Attendance

No student may add a journalism class after the 20th day of a semester.

Students must attend their classes and laboratory periods. Instructors may take attendance into account in assessing a student's performance and may require a certain level of attendance for passing a course. Instructors may choose to drop students from a course, based on attendance, without consent.

The School of Journalism reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of students who fail to attend the first class or laboratory meeting."

The KU Office of Student Financial Aid is required by federal law to determine whether students who receive aid are attending each class in which they are enrolled. Instructors are required to report to that office absences of students who have stopped attending and names of those who have enrolled but never have attended. Students who do not attend classes may be required to repay federal and/or state financial aid.

Students who receive any form of financial aid should learn all requirements including minimum hours of enrollment and grades to qualify for and retain that aid.

Inclement Weather and Special Needs: In the event of inclement weather, the decision to cancel classes is made by KU officials. To determine whether snow or icy conditions have canceled classes, call 864-7669 (864-SNOW). The Office of Student Access Services, 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620 (v/tty), coordinates accommodations and services for KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted Student Access Services, please do so as soon as possible. Please also contact me privately in regard to this course. **Revised 8/3/06**

Copying or Recording - Course materials prepared by the instructor, as well as content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the instructor's property. Video and audio recording of lectures without instructor consent is prohibited. On request, the instructor usually will permit students to record lectures, on the condition that these recordings are only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless the instructor gives explicit permission, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course. **August 11, 2016**