

EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDIES

Journalism 199P Syllabus ■ 3 Resident Quarter* Credits

Photography for Communicating Experiences

COURSE IN BRIEF

In this directed study course, students will learn the difference between just taking interesting pictures and preparing an integrated series of pictures —the **photo essay**.

In describing the photo essay method, Eugene W. Smith, *Life* magazine photographer and photo essayist, described the photo essay like this:

The essay is relationships between photos. One must develop an awareness of the relationships, instead of just taking pictures. A person can go out and take pictures forever, and still never be able to unite, or bring together, these photos into a single theme, unless they have thought about the entire story or essay. The photos must be related — one photograph says something about the subject; the next may amplify on that subject, or may add its own dimension to the subject.

In this course, you will learn to connect your individual travel photographs in ways that form a larger concept or story.

The course is divided into three separate, but related, study **phases**. These are identified as the *Pre-Travel* phase, the *Travel* phase and the *Post-Travel* phase. Each of these stages has its own set of required **tasks** that have been designed not only to familiarize the student with a specific topic relative to his/her travel experience, but to also create a foundation on which to base the next phase of the course.

TEXTBOOK

Select a good **introduction to photography book**. Two excellent books on digital photography are: *Mastering Digital Photography* by David Busch [ISBN: 1-59200-114-9] and *Top 100 Simplified Tips and Tricks of Digital Photography* [ISBN: 0764544470] by Gregory Georges. You may purchase a book or check your local library to find one.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (3 Credits)

THREE credits requires satisfactory completion of:

PRE-TRAVEL PHASE

Prior to departing the student should complete the following:

1. Become familiar with your **camera**. (Most students use digital cameras, but film photography is also acceptable.)
2. **Choose three photography techniques** described in your selected photography book which interest you and which you will try to apply in taking photographs during your travel experience. These experimental techniques may be such things as posing people (for example, in groups or with scenic backgrounds), special situation photography (for example, capturing motion or night photography), or any challenge that intrigues you (for

example, the use of contrast in black and white photography). In a one to two [1-2] page **Experimental Techniques Report**, list the name of the book you've chosen, its publication date, and your three chosen techniques. Describe the techniques and the themes as described below which you will be trying out. You may quote directly from the book. Please remember to cite the work used next to the quote.

3. After completing the textbook reading, select a topic or theme based on a cultural, geographic or historic aspect of your home town or family. Around that theme, produce a **five-picture Pre-Travel photo essay**. Try to use at least one or two of your "experimental techniques" in this essay. For example, if you want to experiment with portrait photos, be sure to pose someone in one of the photos. Write a 1-2 sentence caption under each picture stating why you selected that technique. When you are ready to submit your work, review the *Photograph Submission* section below for specific requirements for submitting photos online.

4. Select **topics or themes** you want to photograph during your travel experience. It is recommended that at least five topics or themes be selected and prioritized before you depart. You will use these themes to develop your travel photo essays. Include your list of possible themes in your Experimental Techniques Report.

5. **Share your Pre-Travel photo essay(s)** with your friends or family and take a **printed copy** with you to give your host family or a friend (if applicable).

*The **original** Pre-Travel photo essay is needed to meet course requirements.*

TRAVEL PHASE

During travel, use the knowledge gained during the *Pre-Travel Phase* to:

1. Take **photos for the topics/themes selected** in the Pre-Travel Phase. Incorporate your three experimental techniques in your photos. *Reminder: You must be the photographer, not be in the pictures.*

2. Keep an extensive **journal** outlining your photography experiences, including the process used to shoot each topic or theme. Keep the photo journal as you are keeping your academic journal in which you are documenting the trip itself.

3. Present a **copy of the Pre-Travel photo essay** prepared during the *Pre-Travel Phase* to your host family or a friend while overseas if applicable.

4. Fill in your portion of the **University Credit Evaluation Form** and give to your leader to complete. (Note: This form must be submitted in order for credit to be awarded. The travel leader may choose to submit the form to the university directly or may have the student submit the completed form. This form should be submitted via postal mail or fax. See *General Information* below for contact information.)

POST-TRAVEL PHASE

After returning home, the student will:

1. Select the final photos for your **photo essays**. Assemble **three photo essays** using the photos taken during travel. It's okay to include photographs even if the experimental technique did not work. Remember, each photo essay consists of five pictures around a topic or theme. Write a brief description for each essay. Note the "experimental techniques" you used in this description. **Submit your photo essays online.** (See *Photograph Submission* below for submission instructions).

Note: If you are submitting your assignments via postal mail, you need to submit the essays in groups. This can be done by putting the photos on a CD or by mounting them on to paper or cardboard. Do NOT submit the essays just as photos paper clipped or stapled together.

2. Write a **two to three [2-3] page paper** critiquing your photography. Include observations/thoughts from the *Pre-Travel*, *Travel* and *Post-Travel* phases in your **Critique Paper**. If you identify mistakes made in your photography, consult your general photography book again to identify possible 'fixes' to these problems. Describe what you would change in order to improve your photo essays and describe what worked well. Submit your paper online.

PHOTOGRAPH SUBMISSION

Submitting Your Photo Essays: Submit your photo essays online¹ by inserting the photos in either Microsoft Word or PowerPoint OR by posting your photo essay on a website and then submitting the web address online. If submitting the photo essay using Word or PowerPoint, there should be one photo per page (or slide in PowerPoint). Title(s) should be at the top of the page/slide. The photographs should be identified by a title on the first page of each essay and a caption underneath the photo. If using PowerPoint, captions should be in the notes area. (Photos submitted via a website will still need essay titles and photo captions, but the photos may be on one scrolling page if necessary.) For Post-Travel, essays may be submitted in one file or submitted in separate files. If the essays are submitted in one file, please label the beginnings of each photo essay (e.g. Photo Essay no. 1, Photo Essay no. 2, etc.)

To insert digital photos in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint, use the following website:

Microsoft Office (2003 and 2007): <http://outreach.ewu.edu/?a=30&id=380>

For information on how to quickly compress digital photographs in MS PowerPoint, use the following website:

MS PowerPoint PC only: <http://outreach.ewu.edu/?a=30&id=1507>

MS PowerPoint MAC only: <http://outreach.ewu.edu/?a=30&id=1340>

For information on how to resize and compress digital photographs see the following websites:

For PC: <http://outreach.ewu.edu/?a=30&id=379>

For Macintosh: <http://outreach.ewu.edu/?a=30&id=420>

For both Mac and PC: <http://outreach.ewu.edu/online/technical-support/electronic-documents-and-photo-support/photos/resizing-a-photo-on-fotoflexer.html>

¹ If you plan to submit photos via postal mail, contact the EWU Field Studies office at 1-800-541-2125 for more information on specific requirements for mounting and shipping your photo essays.

COURSE REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

Work on during:	Required Assignments	3 Credits
Pre-Travel	Experimental Techniques Report	✓
Pre-Travel	1 Pre-Travel Photo Essay (5 Picture minimum)	✓
Travel / Post-Travel	Academic Travel Journal Reviewed by Leader on University Credit Evaluation Form	✓
Post-Travel	Critique Paper	✓
Post-Travel	3 Post-travel Photo Essays (5 Picture minimum in each)	✓
Give to leader during trip; Submit after travel is completed via postal mail or fax	University Credit Evaluation Form	✓

NOTE: Credit will not be granted unless the student successfully completes both the academic and travel phases of the program. Exceptions to the stated course requirements will be granted by EWU only under extenuating circumstances. Refunds will be granted according to official university policy. EWU will make the final determination on matters in question.

Eastern Washington University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran

GENERAL INFORMATION

[Click here for general information](#) on this and all Field Studies courses or go to:

<http://outreach.ewu.edu/1500>