

Greetings, and Welcome to Visual Journalism: ART345

Greetings! I'm Felicia Chamberlain and I'll be your facilitator for this course. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and sharing the rewarding experience of visual storytelling.

This is a six-week course and it'll go by quickly! I guarantee you'll have a lot to show for your time and dedication to this course. Please review the course syllabus and class schedules before the first day of class. This should make clear the goals and projects of this course. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. You can either post questions on the discussion board or email me directly. I check my email often.

Let's all strive to make our classroom an invigorating environment. To succeed at this task, we need to set ground rules to follow. We will start discussing the rules on Day 1 and will have an established list of rules by Day 7.

I encourage you to participate. You will be given participation points for responding to lectures and reading assignments at least 5 days a week, at least three responses a day. Your comments should always be responding to another entry. Never start your own thread. The content of your posts must be substantial and add to the experience of the class. Your comments should specifically critique work rather than only complement it. Your language and style of response should reflect the stimulating learning environment we strive to create. Please use professional language. Respect gets respect.

Each week, questions are posted relating to the lecture and reading assignment. Please comment to questions and respond to posts. Spelling, grammar, and writing clarity are valued and constitute 10% of your grade.

Each week you will need to complete 2 to 3 creative assignments and post your images to the discussion board. Every week a variety of activities will be assigned. You may use whatever media you prefer to solve the problems. Your assignments are designed to build knowledge and develop skills in visual and verbal communication, creative problem solving, critical thinking, aesthetic style, storytelling, and basic art skills. Each student will demonstrate growth and a command of visual journalism through a course project.

Equipment is key to this course. You must have access to a scanner, image-editing software like Adobe Photoshop, and art materials. A visual journal is also required for this course.

Artist Bio & Self-Portrait

Putting a face with a name goes a long way in helping to establish an online community. Create a self-portrait in a medium you are most comfortable with. Post it as an image file by Day 2. Your portrait may not be non-representational.

Art galleries, local newspapers, and artist grants all require an artist bio. There are many different approaches to the artist biography, but they all have one thing in common: it's a brief and descriptive few paragraphs that attempts to make the artist memorable and showcases his or her accomplishments. Follow the links to artists bios on the discussion board. You will find my self-portrait, or "self-portrait," and bio there for review and discussion.

Again, welcome.

--be seeing you...
*Felicia