

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATION

Photojournalism and Documentary Photography Courses Minimum Digital Camera and Technology Requirements



Photo by Caitlin Rice

First Place, 2009 Department of Communication Photojournalism Contest

Each student enrolling in a photojournalism or documentary photography course at the College of Charleston is required to supply a suitable digital camera, USB flash drive or portable hard drive, software, and photo paper. Because of the challenges posed by meeting deadlines in photojournalism courses, sharing equipment in these courses is not recommended.

Digital Camera. A student enrolling in COMM 285, Basic Photojournalism, or COMM 385, Advanced Photojournalism and Documentary Photography, should have as a minimum a digital camera with at least a 6-megapixel resolution. As printed images for these classes will be about 8 x 10 inches, a camera with a resolution of 8 megapixels or higher is strongly recommended. The best interchangeable-lens full system digital SLR cameras (e.g., Nikon D300) can be quite expensive, so please see your instructor for advice before making any major camera purchase.

Many excellent autofocus and programmable digital cameras with wide to telephoto optical-zoom capability (disregard digital zoom) are available from Nikon, Canon, Olympus, Fuji,

Kodak, Pentax and Sony. Students considering advanced studies in photojournalism or documentary photography should consider purchasing DSLR cameras.

Flash Drive or Portable Hard Drive. A USB flash drive of at least 1GB is required for these courses. A USB flash drive of 2GB or higher is highly recommended. Common brand names for USB flash drives include Lexar, Memorex, PNY Technologies, and SanDisk.

Portable USB hard drives have capacities of 160GB or more and also will meet this need. Common brand names include Seagate and Western Digital.

The flash drive or portable hard drive will be used to transport images from the student's computer to the Department of Communication's PC computer lab for refining and printing of the images.

Software. The student will need to purchase Adobe's Photoshop CS4 or Adobe's Photoshop Elements and install this software on her or his personal computer. Older versions of Photoshop or Photoshop Elements may be acceptable. See your instructor if you have questions about an older version of this software. We will work in a Windows environment in the Department of Communication's primary computer laboratory.

Photo Paper. The student will need to purchase a pack of lightweight, glossy laser photo paper for printing images. A color laser printer is available in the Department of Communication's primary computer laboratory for use by students in photojournalism and documentary photography courses.

These guidelines are updated from time to time.



DSLR Cameras