

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

1. **Course Overview:**

Photojournalism is an elective course that covers everything you wanted to know about photography and photojournalism, including, but not limited to:

1. Purposes of Photojournalism
 - a. To capture pictures of people making news
 - b. To tell a story through a photograph
 - c. To report the news through the visual medium of photography
 - d. To accompany print and TV journalism with stunning visuals
2. History of photography (especially in America)
 - a. Capturing light with a camera to create an image
 - b. Mid-19th Century (1860s)
 - i. The Civil War / Abe Lincoln
 - c. Documenting history
 - d. Photographic plates
 - e. 35 mm film (1920s)
 - f. Color photography (1930s)
 - g. Early industry leaders
 - i. Nikon and Kodak
 - h. Poloroid (1940s)
 - i. SLR (single lens reflex) Camera (1950s)
 - i. You see exactly what the lens sees
 - j. Modern flash photography (1960s)
 - k. Autofocus (1960s)
 - l. 21st Century (2000s)
 - i. Digital photography
 - ii. Post photography editing software
 - iii. Smart Phones
 - m. Modern industry leaders
 - i. Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fujifilm, Panasonic, Olympus
3. Photography Basics
 - a. Exposure / Shutter Speed
 - i. The amount of time your camera is exposed to the outside world while taking a picture
 - b. Aperture
 - i. The pupil of your lens
 - ii. Open and close to let in different amounts of light
 - c. ISO
 - i. Level of sensitivity to light

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

4. Camera Angles and Shots

- a. Close Up
- b. Extreme Close Up (XCU)
- c. Wide Angle Shot
- d. Medium Shot
- e. Over the Shoulder
- f. POV Shot
- g. Bird's Eye View
- h. High Angle
- i. Low Angle
- j. Eye-Level Shot
- k. Hip Level Shot
- l. Knee Level
- m. Ground Level
- n. Dutch Angle Shot

5. Photograph Composition

- a. Leading Lines
- b. Balance
- c. Framing
- d. Rule of Thirds
- e. Know Your Focus
- f. Create Depth
- g. Look for symmetry/patterns
- h. Don't cut off limbs

6. Writing proper Photo Captions

- a. Two sentences with different tenses
- b. Explaining the action and adding additional information

2. Class Policies:

Attendance/Assignments:

- Make-up work is to be completed in a timely manner. A student has the same number of days to complete make-up work as he/she missed from school (Example: Absent 2 days: you have 2 days to turn in or make up work).
- Check **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** for missing assignments.
- If you know you are missing an assignment, but you do not see it attached to Google Classroom, there may be copies in the folders in the hanging red pockets; come see me for assistance.

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

- It is **your responsibility** to consult with me at an appropriate time (before or after school) – NOT AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS
- **I will not remind you to turn in your makeup work; you are responsible.**
- Make-up tests/quizzes will be given during pre-arranged times, by appointment only.
- Feel free to communicate with me via email if you are absent, or know you will be absent in order to receive your assignments.

Multimedia Policy:

Computers are for classroom assignment use only and not for other non-school related business. Any misuse of computer equipment will result in an automatic exclusion from computer privileges in the classroom for the remainder of the current deadline cycle. Students' grades will reflect any work that is not submitted.

Music is allowed in the publications classroom **with use of headphones**. Music should be kept at a respectable volume to allow others without headphones to work efficiently. Staff members who fail to comply will not be allowed to listen to music for the remainder of the current deadline cycle.

Using multimedia for digital communication (i.e., text messaging, social networking, etc.) or gaming of any kind is prohibited from the classroom unless directed otherwise by the adviser.

Students will have access to digital cameras throughout the course. Because the equipment is fragile and extremely expensive (**often thousands of dollars**), students take responsibility to make sure that it is used properly and returned undamaged. Digital cameras left unattended or lost may result in the loss of privileges for that student. At any time throughout the year, students are welcome to use their own digital cameras rather than borrowing school equipment.

If a school-owned camera is damaged or lost while in the students' possession, that student will be responsible for the partial or full cost of replacing the equipment (based on an appropriate retail value). When a student has the camera signed out, only that student should be using the camera and only pictures appropriate for the class should be taken.

Basic Classroom Rules:

Read your Student Handbook. All Plano East Senior High School rules MUST be followed.

- Be in your seat and working on the Bell Ringer **before** the tardy bell rings.
- Sit up in class. Be attentive.
- No sleeping. Those who violate this rule are subject to possible humiliation—you've been warned (insert evil laugh here). 😊
- No food or drink in class, except water.
- All cell phones and/or electronic devices should be silent **and** put away
 - You may use the hanging pockets for your device, especially if you cannot trust yourself

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

- Being an elective class, your adviser will not be as stringent with the use of cell phones and electronic devices
 - However, if students abuse this privilege, then more stringent rules will be applied and enforced, including the possible confiscation of said devices
 - During a test, all cell phones must be turned off and placed in hanging pockets with no exceptions
 - **YOU** must take responsibility for your decisions, actions, and future.
 - School policy – no bathroom breaks during the first and last ten minutes of class
 - If you need tutoring/assistance, I am here every day (except FRIDAYS) after school until at least 4:30 (often later).
 - I can also come in early before school if you arrange it with me ahead of time.
 - You may **NOT** see me during lunch. Mr. Birnbaum considers lunchtime an essential time to unwind, take a breather, and not see any students. Failure to get this time causes Bill Bixby to turn into Lou Ferrigno (ask your parents).
-

3. Grading:

Formative Grading (50%):

- Daily Assignments / Quick photo assignments
- Quizzes
- Bell Ringers

Summative Grading (50%):

- Tests
- Major Photography Assignments (requires multiple hours of preparation and shooting)
- Assignments turned in between 9:00 a.m. –4:15 p.m. on the due date: **NO PENALTY.**
All assignments are due on the specified date, unless you are absent.
 - After 4:15 p.m. on due date:
 - **One day late = Highest possible grade is a 90%**
 - **Two days late = 70%**

Retest Policy:

If a student scores a **69 or below** on an exam, they have the option of taking a retest

- The student will be given one week to attend a tutorial session and take the retest
- The teacher will determine the date/time of tutorials and retest
- The student **must come to a tutorial session** with questions
- If a student fails to attend the tutorial, they will not be able to take the retest.

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

- If the student does not show up on the assigned time and date for the retest, they forfeit their right to retest.
 - **The highest grade possible for a retest is a 70.**
-

4. Contests:

Photography Competitions:

Students enrolled in this class should expect to compete in various academic photography competitions throughout the year. Winning awards looks stellar on a college application.

5. Mr. Birnbaum's Background:

As your instructor, I look forward to sharing my wealth of knowledge and skill set with you, no matter what your initial abilities may be. I have spent ten years teaching various aspects of journalism, photojournalism, and English. Prior to my time as an educator, I spent five years as a publicist, and seven years working as a news writer for CNN in Atlanta.

I will make every effort possible to keep in contact with parents/guardians, especially if I have specific concerns about student progress. If at any time there are questions or concerns, please email me. My email address is mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

6. Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should:

1. Have a greater understanding and appreciation for photography, in particular photojournalism
 2. Possess a maturity and understanding of the responsibilities of handling expensive equipment
 3. Possess a vastly **improved photography skill set** that can be used in many aspects of life
 4. Be able to cover any newsworthy topic with excellent photographs and well-written photo captions
 5. Exhibit a **vast knowledge of cameras and photography**
 6. Acquire an **increased knowledge of current events**
-

Journalism – 1st period
Photojournalism – 2nd period
Yearbook – 3rd period
Newspaper (Advanced Journalism) – 4th period
Yearbook/Newspaper Editors – 5th period
Conference 6th and 7th periods
Tutorials: After school Mon through Thurs, or by appt.

Mr. Birnbaum
Plano East Senior High School – Room B4-201
mike.birnbaum@pisd.edu

Photojournalism Syllabus

7. **Materials:**

****ALL SUPPLIES NEEDED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 15th****

(See me *after class* if this is an issue)

You must be prepared for class and have the following with you on a DAILY basis:

- A College-ruled, spiral (NOT shorter composition book)
- Your Chromebook (fully charged)
- A pen or pencil
- SD Cards (at least two)

• The following are *recommended, but NOT* required:

- A 3-ring binder
- A box of blue or black pens
- A box of red pens
- A 3-ring pencil pouch (to store your pencils and pens—what a concept!)
 - o Everything, except your Chromebook, *MAY* be kept in the classroom

8. **Syllabus Acknowledgment Form:**

In order to be a successful photojournalism student for the 2022-2023 school year, students must complete the syllabus acknowledgement form in the Google Form (see link below) with their legal guardian(s) and submit it to the teacher.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDS9jre6iBD-7a1GpPNx2yKNgIewwtM5cnLw4t4oDrvwJ2jA/viewform?usp=pp_url