Humans are story-telling animals. Since the days of cave paintings, we have shared our stories, whether fictional, true, sacred or secular, using whatever technology we possess. In this course we will explore the various way stories have been told via print, photography and audio. What’s more, you will learn how to report, research, record and create multimedia nonfiction stories of your own. What kinds of stories? Any stories you like, as long as they are true. New York City is a cornucopia of sub-cultures, and no matter what you are fascinated by--art, music, fashion, literature, sports, or particular ethnic or economic groups--you will find it here.

For inspiration we will consult a wide variety of material. We’ll read nineteenth century chroniclers of New York City’s immigrant poor, like Jacob Riis and Stephen Crane. We’ll listen to deeply reported, artfully rendered audio from StoryCorps, Radio Diaries and This American Life. We’ll look at photographs by Riis, Lewis Hine, Walker Evans, and Margaret Morton. And we’ll study the oral history Studs Terkel and Marisa Bowe, and the journalism of Joseph Mitchell, Susan Orlean, Lillian Ross, and Gay Talese. I will provide all the readings, via links and PDFs stored on Google Drive.

The final assignment will be a multimedia essay, combining print, photography and audio. Here are the projects last year’s class produced (http://projects.nyujournalism.org/tellingstories/).

Assignments
- **Written**
  - Respond briefly (2-3 paragraphs) to each week’s assigned readings, photographs or audio. All responses must be posted by Tuesday at midnight
  - Short essay (1,200 words) due October 3
  - One page project pitch, due October 10
  - Character sketch (1,500 words) due November 28
- **Photography**
  - A narrative photo essay, made up of at least six related photos, due November 15
- **Audio**
  - The rough version of a “vox pop” interview, due September 19
  - A three minute, edited version of “vox pop,” due September 26
- Final project - Five minute slideshow with minimum of 25 photos, due December 12

Grading
Weekly responses: 20%
Class participation: 10%
Essay: 10%
Character sketch: 20%
Photographic essay: 10%
Final multimedia project: 30%

Class Participation
You are expected to complete the reading/listening/viewing assignment before class and come prepared to discuss it. Joining the discussion only occasionally will earn a “B” for class participation. Active engagement will earn a higher participation grade.

Missing a class without an excused absence will reduce your final grade. The university recognizes the following excused absences: documented illness, family emergency, and religious observance. You must email me in advance if you will be absent.

Academic Integrity
You are members of a community of scholars in which academic integrity is a primary value. All work must be your own. Ideas and quotations must be properly sourced. Students who plagiarize will fail the course and possibly be expelled from the University.

Electronic Devices
Turn off all devices. Laptops remain closed unless you need to find material related to the course. No email, tweets, messaging, or other communication during class.

Readings
Marisa Bowe, *Gig: Americans Talk About Their Jobs*
Stephen Crane, *The New York City Sketches*
Joseph Mitchell, *Up At the Old Hotel*
Susan Orlean, *The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup*
Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*
Lillian Ross, *Reporting*
Gay Talese, *The Bridge*
Studs Terkel, *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do*
Jennifer Toth, *Mole People: Life in the Tunnels Beneath New York City*

Photography
Margaret Morton, *The Tunnel: The Underground Homeless of New York City*
David Isay, *Flophouse: Life on the Bowery*
Jim Goldberg, *Rich and Poor*
10 Composition Tips
*New York Times* Slideshows
PBS, *American Photography: A Century of Images*

Audio
Hindenburg Academy (instructional videos)
*Radio Diaries*, Joe Richman
*This is Actually Happening*, Whit Missildine
StoryCorps, David Isay

Moses Center Statement of Disability
Students with disabilities that necessitate accommodations should contact NYU’s Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu. Students must be registered with CSD to receive accommodations. Information about the Moses Center can be found at www.nyu.edu/csd. The Moses Center is located at 726 Broadway on the 2nd floor.

September 5 - Introduction
- Read - Scott Korb, “The Soul-Crushing Student Essay,” New York Times, April 21, 2018

September 12 - Jacob Riis: From Print to Photography
- Due: Reading response
- Read: Riis, How the Other Half Lives (Introduction, chapters 1-4, pages 1-47)
- View: Riis’s photos
- View a contemporary version of Riis
- View: “The Other Half ... Revisited” (59 minutes)
- In Class: Introduction to audio editing, part I

September 19 - Stephen Crane: Stories of the Ordinary Man
- Due: Reading response
- Due: Vox Pop audio exercise
- Read: Stephen Crane, “Men in the Storm,” (662-667) “When a Man Falls,” (1-5); “Experiment in Misery” (1-4) “An Experiment in Luxury” (1-5)
- In Class: Introduction to audio editing, part II

September 26 - Profiles: Writing about People
- Due: Reading response
- Due: Edited audio “Vox Pop”
- Read: Joseph Mitchell, “The Old House at Home,” “Mazie,” “Lady Olga” (20-30)
- Read: Susan Orlean, “The American Male, Age 10” (1-9)
- Read: Asking Good Questions
- In Class: Introduction to audio editing, part III

October 3 - Working: What People Do All Day
- Due: Essay comparing how Riis, Crane, Orlean and Mitchell profile people (1,200 words)
- Read: Studs Terkel, Working, (pp 126-158) (Link to audio)
- Read: Bowe, Gig, selections
- Read: “Diaries and Detritus, Joe Richman
- Listen: “The Working Tapes of Studs Terkel,” Radio Diaries (60 min)

October 10 - StoryCorps: Talking to Each Other
- Due: Audio editing assignment
- Due: Project pitch (1 page)
- Listen: *Listening is an Act of Love*, (51 min) *On Being*
- Listen: David Isay, *The Sunshine Hotel* (36 minutes)
- Read: David Isay, Harvey Wang, *Flophouse: Life on the Bowery* (1-19)
- Read: David Isay, “Radio Documentaries Take Listeners Into Dark Corners”
- Watch: David Isay, “Everyone around you has a story the world needs to hear” (21 min)
- In class: Michael Garofalo, editor-at-large, StoryCorps
- In class: Discuss project pitches
- In class: Critique select audio editing assignments

**October 17 - From Audio to Photography**
- Due: Respond to Goldberg photographs
- Watch: *Why use the iPhone for photography?*
- Watch: *Photo Composition 101*
- Look at: Jim Goldberg, *Rich and Poor*
- Watch: “Jim Goldberg on his documentary practice,” SFMoma
- Watch: “Everybody Street” (57 min)
- In Class: Discuss Photo Essay

**October 24 - Narrative Photography, I: How to Tell A Story With Pictures**
- Due: Progress report on written character sketch
- In class: Lori Grinker, photographer
- Assignment: Studying the masters of the photographic essay, you will learn to convey a person’s life through a 6 picture photo story made during a 2-week period.
- What Makes a Great Portrait? Joerg Colberg
- Sample Portrait Photo Essays
  - War is Personal, Eugene Richards
  - Exploding Into Life (his wife's breast cancer), Eugene Richards
  - Country Doctor, W. Eugene Smith
  - The Boat Dweller, Todd Heisler
  - Firefighter-9/11, Andre Lambertson
  - Mike Tyson, Lori Grinker
  - Afterwar, Lori Grinker
  - Occupy, August Bradley
  - James Nachtwey on drug resistant TB
  - Graying of AIDS, Katja Heinemann
  - Girl Culture, Lauren Greenfield

**October 31 - Narrative Photography, II**
- Due: Respond to Morton and Toth
- Look at: Margaret Morton, *The Tunnel: The Underground Homeless of New York City*
- Watch: Margaret Morton’s *Fragile Dwellings*
- Read: Jennifer Toth, *Mole People: Life in the Tunnels Beneath NYC* (pp. 1-48)
- In class: Margaret Morton
- In class: Slideshow and Photoshop basics

**November 7 - Gay Talese’s “Human History” of the Verrazano Bridge**
- Due: Respond to Talese
- Read: Gay Talese, *The Bridge* (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5)
- Watch: Gay Talese: *A Man of Record*, *The New Yorker* (3 min)
- Watch: A conversation with Gay Talese, NYU (90 min)
- In class: Project checkpoint

**November 14 - Narrative Photography, part III**
- Due: Photo essay
- Due: Draft of audio interview, transcript, photos, list of subjects
- In class: Lori Grinker critiques student work

**November 21 - No Class**

**November 28 - Photography update**
- Due: Draft of character sketch or interview
- Due: Selection of project photos
- In class: Workshop photos
- In Class: Slideshow 101 (Devin)

**December 5 - Audio update**
- Due Draft project audio
- Due Final Character sketch or interview
- In class: Workshop audio
- In Class: Slideshow 102 (Devin)

**December 12 - Last Class**
- In class: Workshop final projects