

## The Things We Carry Photo Assignment

Drawing inspiration from Jason Travis' *Persona* series (see: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jasontravis/sets/72157603258446753/>), this assignment asks you to document three people and their "mobile lives." The goal of this assignment is to expand our definition of "mobile media" to include the mobile devices, objects, and technologies that people carry with them on a day-to-day basis. The mobile media that we are designing for in this class live in a media ecology with other mobile objects like wallets, keys, identification cards, writing utensils, tools of all sorts, and items that are required to get us through the day while we are on the move.

For this assignment, you will create three diptych photographs: on the top will be a well-crafted portrait of the person, and on the bottom will be the objects they carry on them in a given day. You may work with your clients to curate which objects get displayed (or, alternatively, you can surprise your client while they are out and about, asking them to display the objects they have with them at that moment). These photographs should be well-composed, well-lit, and aesthetically beautiful. You will save your final products as high-resolution jpegs, submitting them to the Canvas site for this class. Your photographs are due **before 10am on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

You will be graded on the following rubric:

- Project clearly addresses the goals of this assignment
- Project displays the "mobile lives" of participants in a visually compelling way
- Project is well edited
- Photographs are well framed
- Photographs are well lit
- Background for photographs is well chosen
- Creation of the diptych is done without errors or flaws
- Photographs are high resolution
- Project includes 3 diptychs
- Project is complete and handed in on time

### Photo Assignment Reflection Paper

Format: Your final paper should be 1-2 pages, typed and double-spaced using Times New Roman font for your document.

Answer the following 3 questions:

1. What information can you glean from what's inside one person's bag?
2. Choosing one of your diptychs, discuss your process for composing the image. What did you shoot first, the portrait or their items (and would your composition have changed if you did it the other way around)? Why did you choose your backdrop for the portrait and

items? In what ways did you work to communicate this person's identity through your photographs?

3. Thinking about the "mobile" objects in your images, what do these items have in common? How does the design of these objects shape our mobile lives?