The more journalism classes I take, the more interesting the subject is to me. This semester, I am taking a photography class. The class has given me a strong foundation for both darkroom and digital processing, and I hope to put these skills to use in the future as I blend my interests in journalism and photography for an internship or class in photojournalism.

This picture, shot for my second critique of the semester, was assigned as a self-portrait. We were not given any guidelines, just that the picture should represent us. I shot the photo digitally and edited it in Photoshop.

I am an International Studies major, and knowledge of culture, travel, and a global view are things that have always been very important to me, especially in my studies. The map above my bed represents these goals. I chose to shoot the photo in front of this map. I am looking at the map in the photo and it is shot from directly behind me, with the map filling the frame. I feel it is an accurate representation of one very important aspect of my ambitions.

This photo was interesting to think about and shoot because it was my first self-portrait of this class. For all of my other assignments, I posed and directed a model. I learned that it is exponentially easier to be behind the camera for the whole shoot. It was difficult to keep taking pictures for the self-portrait without knowing how any of them looked.