
VIDEO JOURNALISM PRACTICUM in Fall 2018 (CM1852)

Course Code	CM1852	Professor(s)	Jurgen Hecker
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	W: 09:00-10:20 in C-302 W: 10:35-11:55 in C-301	Office Hours	Email for appointment
Credits	2	Email	jhecker@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

The aim of the course is to produce videos at a professional level in terms of filming, editing and content. The main focus will be on journalism, but there will be scope to explore other formats.

There will be a strong emphasis on the tools of the trade: filming, editing, scripting and voiceovers and the logistics of video production.

Shooting and editing experience is not a prerequisite.

The course is a workshop where practical skills take priority. At the end of the semester, students should be familiar with shooting, editing, scripting and voicing reports and managing sound to a professional standard.

Contributing to the student video platform Peacock Play on a regular basis is an integral part of the course.

Students are expected to pitch their work to the Executive Editor of Peacock Play and contribute actively to PP.

Strong cooperation with the student magazine and with related classes is also encouraged, and students will be asked to match magazine stories with videos.

Course Learning Outcomes

Shoot and edit video to broadcast standard

Master interview techniques

Develop story ideas and translate them into visual language

Script-writing and delivery, off screen and on screen.

Working to a deadline

General Education

Course Outline

A typical class will be divided into a teaching session starting with a run-through of the week's main news, a practical session working with equipment, and a session of pitches for Peacock Play.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Wed, Sept 12

- **Introductions, explaining the syllabus**
- **Peacock Play and the contributions students are expected to make**

TOPICS:

- How video journalism works. Styles of video journalism
- Introduction to camera operations
- Introduction to framing. Shot sizes. 45 degree rule. 180 degree rule. Rule of Thirds.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Contact Mathieu Motta mmotta@aup.edu to get an Adobe Premiere Pro licence
- Sign up to lynda.com. Watch chapters 1 and 2 of introduction to Premiere. Take notes.
- Buy an external hard drive to store your work. Format it for use with Mac computers
- Ask Mathieu about procedure to sign out equipment. Ask him for a camera set for Sept 19 (we'll need around 8 for next class)
- Follow the news and pick three of the top world news stories of the week, and a top French news story. Take notes. How could you produce a journalism video in Paris in relation to one of those stories? (NB This is a weekly routine assignment)

WEEK 2

Wed, Sept 19

TOPICS:

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- **The news of the week (every week)**
 - **Film a classmate sitting or standing in five shots with a tripod**
 - **Save files on external hard drive**
 - **Log them on Premiere**
 - **Edit them on a timeline**
- Pitches to Peacock Play (every week)

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Complete the edit. Reshoot if necessary.**
- **Upload the edit to YouTube or Vimeo and post a link on class Google doc**
- **Write two short pitches for journalistic videos of 1 min each, including plans for b-roll shots and two interviews. Post pitches on class Google link.**

WEEK 3

Wed, Sept 26

TOPICS:

- **Critique of five-shot edits**
- **Critique of pitches: Are they journalistic? Newsworthy? Are the proposed shots and interviews realistic?**

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- **Interviews 1: Sound, angles, lighting**
 - **Introduction to sound**

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Film two minutes of usable b-roll for your first journalism video**
- **Film two interviews for your first journalism video**
- **Make a rough edit.**
- **Post link on class Google doc**

WEEK 4

Wed, Oct 3

TOPICS:

- **Critique of rough journalism edits**
- **Decision on possible reshoots**

ASSIGNMENTS:

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- **Finish edit of your first journalism video**
 - **Post video on class google doc**
 - **Liaise with Peacock Play editors to get your video on the platform**
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WEEK 5

Wed, Oct 10

TOPICS:

- **Class critique of finished videos.**
- **Interviews 2: Content. The art of the TV interview. Getting the soundbites you need. Open and closed questions. The importance of emotional responses. Keeping the connection. Hard talk or soft talk? The follow-question.**

ASSIGNMENT: Conduct and film an interview with another student. Try to get them to tell you something personal and interesting. Shoot 5 cutaways and 5 inserts. Shoot two sequences of b-roll. Edit one minute. Upload link to class doc.

WEEK 6

Wed, Oct 17

TOPICS: View and critique interviews.

ASSIGNMENTS: Re-edit interviews if necessary. Study for midterm exam (Camera and composition terms. Basic editing terms. A practical camera test)

WEEK 7

Wed, Oct 24

- **Written midterm exam**

(Oct 26: midterm grades due)

(NB Oct 31 to Nov 4: Fall break, no classes)

WEEK 8

Wed, Nov 7

TOPICS: Talking on and off camera

- **Building a voiced report. Scriptwriting. Voiceovers. How to speak over footage.**

Script first or images first?

- **The standup**

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Write a two-minute script for a voiced package about the student interviewed for a two-minute report. Write a dopesheet (script plus interview transcriptions and shotlist). Post on joint doc**
- **Record a standup for the inclusion of the voiced package**

WEEK 9

Wed, Nov 14

TOPICS:

- **Approval of scripts.**
- **Pitches for final project.**

ASSIGNMENT:

Record commentary and edit voiced report.

WEEK 10

Wed, Nov 21

TOPICS:

- **Decision on final project**
- **Distribution of jobs for final project**
- **Post production: Color correction and sound**

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit for final project

WEEK 11

Wed, Nov 28

TOPICS:

- **Progress reports on final project and in-class critique.**
- **Anchor shots and studio interviews**

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit for final project

WEEK 12

Wed, Dec 5

TOPICS: Finishing final project

WEEK 13

Wed, Dec 12 (Final class)

Final, final versions of final project.

FINAL EXAM: Dec 19

No written exam. Posting final project. Review of semester.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

This class is a serious creative workshop. Each unexcused absence will lower your

course grade by 1/2 grade. Lateness will count against your participation score. Because of the cumulative nature of the workshop, late work is not acceptable.

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

The final grade will be made up of:

Class participation, class assignments: 30 %

Midterm exam: 20 %

Peacock Play projects: 30 %

Final project: 20 %

The professor and his colleagues will seek to give regular feedback to each student. If students feel that they need more feedback they are encouraged to ask and suggest improvements in communications throughout the semester.

Other

BUY: You will have to buy a portable hard drive to store your work on. (This should be formatted for use on Mac computers).