

## **Video Storytelling for Web**

Combining sight, sound and motion for narrative storytelling

**Semester:** Spring 2020

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**Welcome to Video Storytelling for Web.** This course is designed to teach advanced storytelling, shooting, and editing techniques for multimedia journalism in multi-platform environments. The course will teach you to recognize and understand the technical and aesthetic aspects of visual storytelling, and how to build successful visual narratives using a combination of still images, HD video, ambient audio, and natural voices. The course is constructed to prepare you for the “real world,” in which you will apply the journalistic standards of truth, fairness and accuracy with the tools and techniques of multimedia journalism to tell compelling narratives in a professional environment.

Professional camera gear, audio equipment, including microphones and a recorder, and photo and video editing software such as Photoshop and Final Cut or Premiere are necessary. Use of a tripod for video is mandatory.

Before taking this course, you need to have demonstrated a base level of experience and understanding of how to shoot stills and video with a professional HDSLR using manual settings. You must have experience in gathering and editing audio and video using professional editing software such as Final cut or Premiere. This course will apply professional standards and practices to your work with a goal of preparing you for the next step in your careers.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To identify and analyze current trends in multimedia storytelling.
- To assess, compare and contrast, and rate the work of professionals and classmates through critique and interpretation.
- To apply journalism ethics of truth, accuracy and fairness to your work.
- To demonstrate the ability to give and receive constructive feedback through group critiques.
- To use still images in video storytelling.
- To demonstrate how to conduct a successful interview on video with good light, composition, sound and content.
- To demonstrate how to capture high quality a-roll and b-roll and use those components to build multimedia stories.
- To demonstrate how to capture and edit high-quality audio with ambient and natural sounds for multimedia narratives.
- To build upon existing editing skills for stills, video and audio using appropriate software including Photoshop, Final Cut and/or Premiere.

- To build upon existing shooting skills to capture professional quality still images and HD video using a HDSLR camera to build multimedia narratives.
- To learn and apply successful mobile multimedia reporting techniques for the field.
- To illustrate how to produce a storyboard for your projects.
- To discover the subject's voice and build the story arch and narrative.

### Goals

- To produce a tightly edited and focused multimedia narrative to be used in portfolio for internships or jobs.
- To discover where and how to find internships, jobs, and freelance assignments for multimedia storytelling.
- To present and brand your project in a professional manner online for prospective employers and clients.

**Prerequisites for the course:** *VIC 3001 Sight, Sound and Motion; JOU 3601 Photographic Journalism;*

### Course Materials:

**There are six DSLR kits available for checkout from Steven Kippert in the equipment room. You will need to provide your own [SD Card, available from Amazon.](#)**

Cameras, Equipment and Supplies: This is a video storytelling class. You must have access to a **HDSLR camera** that shoots video and stills such as the **Canon 5D Mark III/IV** or **Nikon D750**. You will also need a **lavalier mic** or shotgun mic and an **audio recorder**.

Additionally you must have a **tripod**, preferably with a video head, an **external hard drive** with 500G to 1 TB of space ([LaCie Rugged All-Terrain](#) is a good one). Backups are critical. You don't want to lose all of your hard work.

You will need Final Cut Pro or Premiere as well as Photoshop and/or Lightroom.

You will be able to use this gear well beyond this class. Everything listed is industry standard. If you have any questions about gear or equipment, come talk to me.

**Course Communities:** We will use Canvas and Vimeo to create online communities for this course in which to share inspiring work and class information.

Our class Vimeo channel is [Multimedia Narratives](#). You will all be posting your videos to our class channel. A DropBox or Google Drive folder will also be useful.

### Reading List:

Required:

- [Mediastorm – Field Guide to Powerful Multimedia Storytelling - iPad App- \\$9.99-](#)
- [The Bare Bones Camera Book](#) – by Tom Schroeppel

Suggested:

- [Video Journalism For The Web: A Practical Introduction to Documentary Storytelling](#)
- [In the Blink of an Eye](#) – by Walter Murch
- [Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production](#) – by Jonathan Kern
- [Photojournalism: the Professionals Approach](#) – by Ken Kobre
- [Jessica Abel and Ira Glass – Radio: An Illustrated Guide Reality Radio – John Biewen](#)
- [Cutting Rythms: Shaping the Edit](#) – by Karen Pearlman
- [Lynda.com](#)
- Additional readings will be posted throughout the course
- Keeping up with current multimedia projects throughout course is expected – each student will be required to suggest at minimum two different multimedia stories for the class to watch and analyze throughout the semester. We will discuss some sources for quality multimedia such as [Mediastorm](#), [Strawhat Visuals](#), *L.A. Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, [NPPA POY](#), [Best of Photojournalism](#) and [CPOY](#), and non-profits like [Open Society Foundations](#) and [Catchlight](#)

**Attendance:** Attendance is necessary for constructive in-class critiques and group evaluations. You are expected to attend labs and lectures. Excused absences include family emergencies, illness, jury duty, military service, and professional conferences where you are presenting a paper, speaking on a panel, or accepting an award. If you must miss class, please contact me BEFORE class, unless otherwise unavoidable. All work must be turned in on time unless other arrangements are made with me. Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to creating a critical learning environment. Please be on time and remain until class is dismissed. Your participation in class not only benefits you, but everyone else in the class. We need you there for the entirety to elevate the experience for everyone.

**Be Respectful:** We will be using technology on many different platforms throughout the course for myriad reasons, however, turning off your cell phone and laptop during lectures or critiques enhances the learning environment for everyone. Please limit any unnecessary disruptions or distractions during lectures, critiques and labs.

**Classroom Procedures:** No food is allowed in class or lab. The technology we will be using during the course is highly susceptible to damage from food and drinks. We will have breaks during class to provide you the opportunity to eat a snack. You may bring drinks to class, but please have a secure lid on the container or bottle. Do not set your drinks near laptops, computers or keyboards. Please dispose of all food and drink containers, wrappers, bags, etc... outside of the classroom and lab.

**Grading:** Grading for this course will be at times, subjective. I will do my best to be fair and balanced. Each assignment will be judged through the lens of professional quality journalism as it pertains to accuracy, craftsmanship, effort and enterprise.

**Take risks:** You are encouraged to take risks in this class. We learn the most from our mistakes. Don't just emulate what you have already seen. Innovate. Try something new and different. Fail and try again. You need to know and understand the basics first, but from there you can push through to new and exciting territories.

**Carry it forward:** You will have opportunities to carry your peer and instructor feedback forward to improve your grade throughout the course. Your effort and participation in the learning process are the most critical components to your grade. Your final grade will depend mainly on the quality of work you hand in with special emphasis on your improvement throughout the course.

**Deadlines:** Missing deadlines is unacceptable in the “real world” and will significantly lower your grade. If you miss the deadline, you will lose one letter grade for each day the assignment is not turned in, up until the third day. After the third day, you will receive zero points for the assignment. We need everyone to turn in their assignments on time to have constructive critiques, even if the assignment or project is not perfect. In the real world, it doesn’t matter how good a story is if it is turned in after deadline and nobody gets to see it. We will stick firmly to these principals.

Class Schedule: *\* Course schedule subject to change \* Please be aware that assigned readings are to be completed by the following class. So, for example, your assigned reading seen in January 8 should be completed before we meet on January 15<sup>th</sup>.*

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	January 7	Course Intro • Reading:
Week 2	January 14	Video Critique • Reading:
Week 3	January 21	Sight Sound Story • Reading:
Week 4	January 28	Event • Reading:
Week 5	February 4	Character Story Pitch Reading:
Week 6	February 11	Interview Exercise • Reading:
Week 7	February 18	Story Boards/Video Critique
Week 8	February 25	First Draft
Week 9	March 3	Spring Break
Week 10	March 10	Final Draft/Social Issue/Hero’s Journey Story Proposals

Week	Date	Topic
Week 11	March 17	Project Proposals/Story Boards • Reading:
Week 12	March 24	Interview a Professional
Week 13	March 31	Guest Lecture
Week 14	April 7	Field Work/Editing
Week 15	April 14	Final Project Rough Drafts
Week 16	April 21	Final Project Presentations
Week 17	April 28	Finals Week - Grades Due May 4

**Grading Rubric:**

- Midterm and Final Projects: 50%
  - Weekly Assignments: 25%
  - Quizzes: 15%
  - Class Participation: 10%
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- **A** – Work is on time, accurate and publishable, demonstrating an in-depth understanding of the elements of strong visual narrative storytelling. **All deadlines and assignment expectations have been met or exceeded**
  - **B** – Work is almost publishable with basic understanding of visual storytelling. **All deadlines and assignment expectations have been met.**
  - **C** – Effort was made but the quality of the work is not publishable without significant improvements. **All deadlines have been met.**
  - **D** – The craftsmanship and presentation of the work barely passes the minimum standards for a student in an advance level class due to a lack of effort or care in the final product. Work is not publishable. **Deadlines and/or assignment expectations have not been met.**
  - **F** – Student failed to either produce the required work or put forth enough effort to meet the minimum standards of the course.

## Grading Scale

The minimum score to pass this course is a C, or 72.5. Scores are rounded to the nearest whole point: 89.4 rounds down to 89 (B+) while 89.5 rounds up to 90 (A-).

	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent
		B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%
A	100-94%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
A-	93-90%	B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points

This may be achieved by including a link to the web page:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Accuracy:** Proofread all of your work for fact errors or misspellings BEFORE turning it in for a grade. Professional journalists are expected to provide accurate and truthful information. Getting the facts wrong can cost you your job in the industry. Start building good editing habits now.

**How do you succeed in this class?** Come to every class on time and stay until the end. Great journalists go early and stay late. Use your time wisely to learn, participate and contribute in class discussions, critiques, lectures and labs. Make your deadlines. Take risks. Help your classmates. Ask questions, often. Be ethical. Hold yourself to the highest degree of honesty, integrity and accuracy. Make no excuses. Correct your mistakes. Be humble and positive. Apply the knowledge and skills learned in this class to develop professional quality work. Leave your comfort zone and push the boundaries. Never stop looking, listening and learning.

If you follow these guiding principles, you will find success in this class by producing the assigned work, turning it in on time, improving upon it throughout the course, and creating a professional quality multimedia narrative with sound, stills and video that tells a compelling

story through a character with an appropriate story arch. Your final project will be used to show prospective employers why you are part of the next generation of visual storytellers.

### **Critiques:**

Giving and receiving valuable feedback is necessary for personal and professional growth. We will be using the class critiques as a forum in which to discover and analyze what makes strong, innovative, communicative visual storytelling. We will discuss what works, what doesn't, and why. The goal is to instill in you a greater appreciation for multimedia narratives, the ability to recognize and evaluate current and future trends and prepare you to design successful stories using still images, video and sound for applications in the professional world.

Everyone must take part in the critiques with constructive ideas and suggestions. We must be tough in order to get better, but we must also be respectful and balanced. When receiving a critique of your work, remember that the purpose is to make you a better storyteller and better qualified to enter the professional world. Have a thick skin. You will need it when applying for internships and jobs. Employers and mentors will judge your work with professional standards. You need to be prepared to accept constructive advice in order to grow and learn from it, without getting down or defensive. And remember, if you are fair and balanced when giving critiques to classmates, they will in turn do the same for you.

Lastly, participation in critiques and discussions is a significant portion of your grade. Please come to class prepared to engage in discussion.

**Honesty, Integrity and Ethics:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. Student conflict and conflict resolutions guidelines can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

All students in this class are expected to adhere to the ethical guidelines and principles of journalism. Some useful resources can be found at <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp> and [https://nppa.org/code\\_of\\_ethics](https://nppa.org/code_of_ethics). If you have an ethical dilemma, seek advice from the faculty.

Make sure that what you write, shoot, and edit is your own work. Plagiarism is cheating. Using someone's intellectual property without their permission or attribution is an egregious violation of journalism ethics and principals, one in which you will lose your job and possibly your career. If you incorporate music, sound, still images, video, or written words in your work that is not produced by you and you alone, you **MUST** receive permission to use the material and give appropriate credit. If you have questions or concerns about using a particular photograph, video



clip or piece of music or sound, please come talk to me **BEFORE** using it in your story. Any attempt to pass off another person's work as your own **will result in a failing grade and your violation will be reported to the Dean of Students office.**

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Useful Resources:**

- **Division of Student Affairs** (352-392-1261) – Contact this office if you need to miss class due to an on-going medical problem or family emergency. The office will send a courtesy email to your instructors about your absence. <http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/>
- **UF Counseling & Wellness Center** (352-392-1575) – The center provides scheduled and drop-in appointments with counselors to discuss a range of personal issues. <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- **Disability Resource Center** (352-392-1261) – Students requesting class accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center. You will receive documentation to give to each of your instructors. You must meet with your lab instructor and with me during office hours to discuss special arrangements. Please take action immediately. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>
- **Communication Coaching Center** (1088 Weimer Hall) – Student members of the Journalism and Communications Ambassadors staff the center. They can provide coaching on writing assignments, grammar and AP style issues. They also can assist you in applying for internships and finding sources for a story. <http://www.ufjca.org/communications-coaching-center.html>
- **Computers** – Call 352-392-HELP (4357) or email [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
- **Knight Division for Scholarships, Career Services and Multicultural Affairs** (1060 Weimer) -Provides information on scholarships and internships and sets up the College Interviewing Day each semester. Dr. Katrice Graham is the director. <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/knight/>
- **Career Resource Center** – The CRC is located on the main floor of the Reitz Union and provides free career assessment and counseling. Check the CRC website for information about workshops, career and job fairs, or to schedule an appointment. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
- **SNAP** – Offering pick-up and drop-off services for after-dark safety. Call 352-392-7627 or check online <http://www.police.ufl.edu/community-services/student-nighttime-auxiliary-patrol-snap/> You can get the SNAP App for free by using either the Android Market or Apple App Store and searching for SNAP UF.

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given



specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations>