

# Multimedia Storytelling

JOUR 3526-002

Fall 2020

**Class Meeting:** T 9:40-11:05 a.m. Online Synchronous  
TH 9:40-11:05 a.m. Online Synchronous and may change to MJ 202, 206 in the future when the University allows it

**Jin Yang, Ph.D.**

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**Office Hours:** by appointment to meet virtually

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Catalog description

Introduction to the basic elements of multimedia journalistic storytelling. Students will produce news-driven multimedia packages for various storytelling platforms, including photography, audio, video, and data visualization.

### Prerequisites

JRSM 2121

JRSM 3900

### Textbooks, Software and Required Materials

George-Palilonis, J. (2013). *The Multimedia Journalist: Storytelling for Today's Media Landscape*. Oxford University Press.

*Associated Press Stylebook*

Adobe Photoshop CC

Adobe InDesign CC

Adobe Premiere CC

Audacity

Infographic applications found online

*Note: You can purchase the Adobe Creative Cloud on a month-to-month basis from Adobe.com.*

One Flash Drive (At least 2GB capacity)

### Class format

We will meet virtually twice a week on the zoom platform. 9:40 to 11:45 T.Th. is our meeting times. This class is synchronous meaning we meet online at 9:40 to 11:45 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Not showing up online at those hours are considered absent from classes. You may attend the class from home or from the UC or from the library or from the Meeman Lab when the lab is allowed to open by the University.

This course is designed to stock the toolbox of a talented multimedia journalist. Students will learn techniques and the principles behind multiple storytelling platforms to execute projects for a multimedia news and information environment. Further, students will build a portfolio of work to show potential employers. Some sessions might require students to leave the classroom, in which case conduct will be governed by the rules of the classroom and the rules of the venue in which the class is meeting. A typical class session will consist of a lecture, discussion, and assignment/lab time.

Students are required to complete multiple multimedia activities and multimedia projects throughout the semester, as well as a final portfolio. The multimedia assignments reinforce principles of the software and specific media platforms. The multimedia projects allow students to combine those skills into journalistic work.

### Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis eLearn home page: <http://elearn.memphis.edu>
2. Log in using your University of Memphis username and password.
3. In the Term Year course list available to you, click on the link for JOUR 3526-002 to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page

### Course Requirements

#### *Computer Usage:*

Students are expected to use a computer in this course. Students will use Apple computers running the Macintosh operating system in class but may use Windows computers at their own discretion. Students will work with the design software standard in the professional world. At this time, the professional standard is the Adobe Creative Cloud, particularly Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Extensive instruction about how to use these programs will be offered in this course.

#### *Writing Style:*

Although this is not specifically a writing course, students will be required to adhere to the Associated Press style guide and other journalistic writing standards. Additionally, students will write 200 to 300-word journalistic stories with each of their Multimedia Projects during the semester.

#### *Assignment Format:*

- All multimedia assignments and multimedia projects are to be submitted electronically via eCourseware.
- Generally, each assignment and project will come with unique formatting guidelines. Be sure to follow these guidelines exactly. Work that does not comply to these guidelines, as well as the production specifications for the assignment, will receive a grade of 0.
- All multimedia assignments and quizzes are **due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday** of the week they are assigned. **Late work is not accepted.**
- All multimedia projects are **due at 11:59 p.m. Sunday** of the week they are assigned. **Late work is not accepted.**
- Students will receive a participation grade that is based on your in-class project pitches

and contribution to project critiques.

Work will be critiqued in the classroom and must be suitable for presentation. Students are encouraged to work ahead on assignments to develop their own processes for the work.

#### *Multimedia Assignments:*

- MA1: 5-Shot sequence (mobile photo)
- MA2: Mobile photo scavenger hunt
- MA3: DSLR photo shoot
- MA4: Photo slideshow in Premiere Pro
- MA5: Audio script writing
- MA6: Audio natural sound scavenger hunt
- MA7: Audio editing in Audacity
- MA9: Video Interview in Premiere Pro
- MA9: Video b-roll in Premiere Pro
- MA10: Video editing in Premiere Pro

- MP1: Photo Slideshow
- MP2: NPR-style Audio
- MP3: Audio Slideshow
- MP4: Video Documentary

#### *Portfolio:*

All Department of Journalism undergraduate students are required to develop and maintain an active online portfolio of their work. More information about the final review of portfolios is in the Assessment section later in the syllabus. You will need to create a section on your portfolio site for the multimedia work you've completed for JOUR 3526. We will take time in class for you to update your site.

### **Grading**

Assignment categories and points or percentage weights.

- A+ = 96.5-100%; A = 92.5-96.4%; A- = 89.5-92.4%
- B+ = 86.5-89.4%; B = 82.5-86.4%; B- = 79.5-82.4%
- C+ = 76.5-79.4%; C = 72.5-76.4%; C- = 69.5-72.4%
- D+ = 66.5-69.4%; D = 59.5-66.4%
- F 0-59.4%

#### *Grading Philosophy:*

A=Professional quality work that could be use with little or no modification; B=Good to excellent work and exceeds requirement, but would require revision to be used professionally;  
C=Satisfactory work and adequately meets requirement, but would need significant revision;  
D=Barely satisfies minimum requirement and below average quality; F=Unsatisfactory work and does not meet minimum requirement. NOTE: Plusses and minuses may be given.

#### *Grade Distribution:*

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Points</b>
Multimedia assignments	10	100 (10 each)

Multimedia projects	4	575
Weekly Quizzes	10	100
Portfolio	1	200
Participation grade	1	50
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1,025</b>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### *Week 1, Aug. 18, Aug. 20: Introduction.*

Course Introduction, What is Multimedia Journalism?; Intro to Photojournalism; Mobile Photography

Readings: Multimedia Journalist, 1, 3-4

Homework: Quiz 1, MA 1

### *Week 2, Aug. 25, Aug. 27: Photojournalism.*

Writing Cutlines, Getting to Know the Camera, Photoshop Refresher; Mobile photos on Wednesday

Readings: Multimedia Journalist, 5, 7

Homework: Quiz 2, MA 2

### *Week 3, Sept 1. Sept 3: Photo Shoot Week*

DSLR Photos on Monday; Telling a story with photos, Slideshow editing using Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

Homework: MA 3, MA4

### *Week 4, Sept. 8, Sept 10, Slideshow Week*

Telling a story with photos, Slideshow editing using Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

Homework: Quiz 3, MP 1

### *Week 5, Sept. 15, Sept. 17: Audio Journalism*

Discuss MP2; Audio Journalism: terms, script writing, interviewing, natural sound, voice over, and equipment

Readings: Multimedia Journalist, 8

Homework: Quiz 4, MA 5.

### *Week 6, Sept. 22, Sept. 24: Audio Editing*

Editing audio in Audacity

Homework: Quiz 5, MA 6, MA7,

### *Week 7, Sept. 29, Oct 1: Audio Slideshow & Infographics*

Brief review of audio slideshows, Introduction to Infographics, Pitch MP3

Readings: Multimedia Journalist, 10

Homework: Quiz 6, MP2

### *Week 8, Oct. 6, Oct 8: Video Journalism*

Discuss MP3; Intro to Video Journalism: camera, composition, lighting, sound, interviews, b-roll;

Editing video in Adobe Premiere Pro  
Homework: Quiz 7, MA8

*Week 9, Oct. 13, Oct. 15: Video Practice*

Video practice—The Interview

Homework: Quiz 8, MP3

*Week 10, Oct. 20, Oct 22: Video Practice*

Video practice—B-roll, Pitch MP4

*Homework: Quiz 9, MA9*

*Week 11, Oct. 27, Oct. 29: Video Practice*

Putting the documentary together

Homework: Quiz 10, MA 10

*Week 12, Nov. 3, Nov. 5: Portfolio/Project Work*

Adding multimedia to your online portfolios

*Homework: MP4*

*Week 13, Nov. 10, Nov.12: Portfolio*

*In-class work on revisions and portfolio.*

*Week 14, Nov. 17: Portfolio*

*Nov. 17 is the last day of class.*

*Designated Final Exam Time as our Portfolio Presentation Time*

*Nov 24, T. 10:30a - 12:30p*

## **ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES**

### **Five Pillars in JOUR 3526**

- *Critical Thinking:* Students must demonstrate an understanding of the audience that will consume multi-platform work and explain this connection in artist statements and project pitches.
- *Media Literacy:* Students learn how visual media are researched, planned, and created visually through multiple multimedia projects.
- *Multimedia:* Students will prepare materials for multiple media platforms including photography, video, audio, audiovisual, and data visualization.
- *Professionalism:* Students learn the professional standards and routines of the multimedia production by discussing and preparing multimedia projects, using DSLR and video cameras, audio recording materials, applications designed for building infographics, and vocabulary used in the multimedia industry. Students learn the ethical guidelines for editing photographs, video, and audio. Students learn legal issues associated with photography, videography, and audio recording. Finally, students will develop a professional portfolio of their multimedia work.
- *Writing:* Students learn writing skills related to photo cutlines and descriptions. In addition,

students write artist statements for creative work and short stories for video and audio projects.

## Professional Values and Competencies in JOUR 3526

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications,
- Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- Think critically, creatively and independently.
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve.
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness.
- Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts
- Apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.

## How professional values and competencies will be met

### *Cognitive objectives to be mastered (ability to explain, analyze, understand, think critically)*

- Learn the basic elements of digital cameras-their capabilities and limitations
- Learn to think in a multi-platform environment and communicate using the most effective platform for each story
- Understand spatial relationships, including the importance of depth, scale and the elimination of distracting elements
- To understand the relationship of people to their situation and surroundings as well as to be able to read their body language in order to capture insightful, significant movements
- To work within the digital computer framework and process images, video and audio to its maximum potential while taking care not to alter fact or otherwise create unethical representations

### *Performance standards to be met (demonstrable skills, abilities, techniques, applied competencies)*

- Complete a series of multimedia assignments, which include packages representing people in various news and feature situations

- Demonstrate the ability to capture and process an image, video and audio with the appropriate, industry-standard equipment to make it suitable for presentation
- Demonstrate proficiency with image, video and audio editing software

## How assessment of student learning will be met

### *Awareness*

- Become aware of photo, video and audio development and ethics of visual communication.

### *Understanding*

- Develop an understanding for the multimedia storytelling process from development to editing to final presentation in multiple media outlets.

### *Application*

- Creation of at least five multimedia projects addressing different multimedia platforms, photography, video, audio, audio-visual and data visualization, which are edited using a combination of Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Pro, Audacity, and data visualizations applications.

## JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES

### Portfolio requirement

All students in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of their work. Undergraduate students are to begin the portfolio in JRSM 3900 and graduate students are to begin in JRSM 7002. Students are to contribute to it in every skills course thereafter. The portfolio should contain samples of the student's work from courses and/or professional experiences and should develop as the student builds skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while students are enrolled in their capstone courses.

Students may use any type of web hosting for their portfolios, but it must have an independent and professional URL. Students may use any content management system, but students are encouraged to use WordPress, Wix or Squarespace. Students are encouraged to consider purchasing a URL and hosting if they plan to use the portfolio for a long term, but they must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

Students should have a professional email address they plan to use throughout their professional lives, via a common email service, such as Gmail.

All portfolios must contain the following items:

- Samples of work from courses and/or professional activities. (Example: Broadcasting students must include a video reel)
- A current résumé
- A personal profile
- Contact information/means of contact
- Social media links

Students might wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, SoundSlides presentations, design PDFs, audio files and writing pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career the student seeks after graduation. Thus, each student's portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

### **Email**

Students must have their UofM email accounts activated. Students using another provider, such as Google, are required to have all UofM email forwarded to that account. Students should go to the <http://iam.memphis.edu> website to implement forwarding of UofM email. Students are required to check their email daily. They are responsible for complying with any email sent to by professors or others in the University.

### **Electronic devices**

Some classes require a tablet, laptop or a smartphone. Others do not. Instructors will set the policy for their specific classes.

### **Attendance**

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism and Strategic Media. Students may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual late arrival. No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements with the class professor. Students may not be permitted to make up any missing work unless it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented (e.g. with a doctor's note or a copy of the newspaper obituary). Journalism and Strategic Media is a professional program, and students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. Students who have some problem making it to class on time should make arrangements to correct the problem or consider taking another class. Students should consider this class as a "job" in the educational process and be on time just as they would elsewhere.

### **Course repetition**

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade ("C-") in a class required by their program of study in Journalism and Strategic Media more than three times will be dropped from the program.

Students may not use or submit work from a previous course, even if it is the same course being repeated, to fulfill requirements for assignments in another course. If students wish to substantially rework the original submission, or to work with the same general idea, that may be permissible upon discussion with and written approval from the professor of the current course. All written work will be checked for policy adherence via TurnItIn.com. All creative work will be checked for policy adherence by the professor, and judged against previous submissions. The only exception to this policy is the student's online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo).

### **Academic integrity**

In addition to University-wide policies stated in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or students receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on their own, as acts of cheating punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. Punishment may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the University.



Further, as this is a journalism and strategic media class, students are expected to comply with copyright law and must have sufficient permission to use any copyrighted materials used in creative projects, unless otherwise informed in cases of exercises or reproduction.

Your written work may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar electronic detection method, for rating originality of your ideas. Also, to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. As part of this process, you may require to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your work. Other instructions to follow may also be given. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process. The assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database. It is solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Assignments not submitted according to the instructor's procedures may be penalized or may not be accepted at all. (*Office of Legal Counsel, October 11, 2018*)

### **Online SETEs**

Students are urged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. Once the instructor has posted grades, student can immediately see that grade, provided they have completed a the SETE for that class. To access evaluation forms, students should log in to MyMemphis using their UUIDs and email passwords; click on the gray "Student" tab; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the "Submit" button at the bottom of the form. Completing the SETE will only take a few minutes. Faculty take the evaluations very seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Student feedback is essential and is appreciated.

### **Deadlines**

All deadlines are firm. This is journalism and strategic media. Students needing an extension on an assignment must receive approval from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for reasonable circumstances if the student notifies the instructor prior to the due date.

### **AP Style and grammar**

All written work in this class must follow the AP Stylebook and accepted rules of grammar and punctuation. Students are responsible for learning these rules and checking their work for errors.

### **Disability and accommodations**

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office for Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Diversity and inclusivity**

Students are required to respect the differences of others and treat all persons with respect. Discriminatory, derogatory and threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated. Further, students are expected to consider their work through a diverse mind. Media reach a mass audience, and students should be aware of how those messages are received by a diverse audience.

### **Weather policy**

Always check with local media and the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather. If the University is closed or classes are canceled, this course will not meet. However, students will still be responsible for that day's work.

## **Student support**

Students who are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, should visit the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help: <https://www.memphis.edu/saos/sos/crisis-resources.php>. Any student who faces personal challenges including, but not limited to securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Office of Student Accountability, Outreach & Support (901-678-2187) located in the University Center, Suite 359 for assistance. Students may also talk with course instructors about the challenges they are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting with campus or community support.

## **COVID-19 protocols for this course**

### **COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy - Masks and Social Distancing**

All students, faculty and staff will wear masks in all public spaces, including our classroom (lab) per the COVID-19 policy. The first time a student enters a classroom without wearing a face covering, the student will be asked to leave the class until they return a covering. Further violations will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability. Students who repeatedly or flagrantly violate these community expectations may be referred for discipline under the Student Code and, if appropriate, immediately removed from campus by the Dean of Students.

### **Student Health**

Students who are experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or a higher than normal temperature should inform me by email so they can be excused from class and should stay home. Students should contact their health care provider or the Student Health Center at <https://www.memphis.edu/health/>.

Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at [deanofstudents@memphis.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@memphis.edu).

### **Student Accommodations**

If and when we return to class, students seeking to remain remote for health or other serious reasons should discuss their options with me. Students with accessibility issues or with other learning accommodation needs due to a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) to submit an official request for course accommodations. Contact DRS at 901.678.2880 or at [drs@memphis.edu](mailto:drs@memphis.edu). (<https://www.memphis.edu/drs/index.php>)

### **Student Resources**

Students who need additional resources can contact the Dean of Students Office at <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php>.