

PHPJ401

SENIOR PROJECT • FALL 2017

Jenn Poggi • jappph@rit.edu

Josh Meltzer • jhmpph@rit.edu

OVERVIEW

This course requires students to engage in analytical and critical thinking, and to employ best practices, in order to execute production of their accepted senior capstone project proposal. Students will have the support and guidance of a faculty member as they work through a series of assignments and exercises designed to help them develop, focus and refine their projects during the editing phase of production.

This course will include weekly group critiques of in-progress project edits as well as discussions and presentation of topics including time management, research, planning, photographic and photojournalistic subjects. The process will result in the production of a visual media presentation in accordance with senior capstone project guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of this class is for the student to complete their senior capstone project in a successful manner. This requires students to demonstrate skills development in the following areas:

- time management
- gathering of necessary visual material
- project management
- attention to detail
- communication
- editing
- narrative development

GRADES

Your final letter grade will be determined solely by the grades earned throughout the semester, including your attendance. It will be calculated from the average of the total number of points accumulated in the bulleted formula listed below. Grades and feedback, when applicable, will be made available promptly on myCourses.

- Assignments and exercises count for 50% of the final grade.
- Committee evaluations counts for 40% of the final grade.
- Participation in critiques and discussion counts for 10% of final grade.

Plus and minus grades are assigned in the following manner:

A- 90-92, A 93-99, B- 80-82, B 83-86, B+87-89
C- 70-72, C 73-76, C+ 77-79, D 60-69, F 0-59

OF NOTE

This syllabus is meant to be a guide for topics discussed in PHPJ401. The content and class schedule, like any editorial plan, is subject to adjustment based on unexpected events and available resources on any given day.

Plan to check myCourses account frequently. All class related correspondence will be sent via myCourses and important information will be posted regularly in both the "News" and "Content" sections. No new information will be posted after 7pm on the night before class.

EXPECTATIONS

You can expect us to offer encouragement, respect for your views, honest and constructive critique sessions, and a thoughtful review of your work during the grading process. We will be on time, prepared, and focused on providing you with the most relevant information. We welcome your constructive feedback regarding course materials.

We expect you to make the most of this class and leave the excuses at the door. Raise the bar for yourself and your classmates by offering constructive critique of your colleagues' work and actively participating in class discussions. Be on time and prepared to contribute and learn. Be open to constructive criticism and ready to challenge what you hear and see in class.

WRITING

Writing effectively is a skill that transcends all professions. Although developing visual communication skills is a primary goal in the photojournalism program, you must be able to compose clear and concise written communication.

For most assignments and exercises you will be required to write a detailed explanation of your approach and decision making process. You will be assessed on how well you organize and clearly articulate your thoughts. The Writing Commons consultation sessions are a valuable resource to help you improve your writing skills.

<http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/writing/writing-lab->

MATERIALS

While there is no specific textbook for this class, there will be assigned readings. You will spend significant time in class working with Adobe InDesign and Premiere. However, this course is not focused on software instruction. A detailed list of Lynda.com InDesign and Premiere chapters will be listed in the content section on myCourses. You will need an 8x10 notebook for this class.

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WEEK 1 • 8/28

Review of syllabus and class expectations / Review current project status

WEEK 2 • LABOR DAY (we will reschedule this class this week)

Group A critique / Review 14-week plans / Review one-week plan of action / Capstone Committee Meeting (9/9) prep / Writing

WEEK 3 • 9/11

Group B critique / Review one-week plan of action / Style Guides

WEEK 4 • 9/18

Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 5 • 9/25

Group A critique / Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 6 • 10/2

Group B critique / Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 7 • FALL BREAK (we will reschedule this class this week)

Writing Feedback / Revise Style Guides / Gallery exhibition plans

WEEK 8 • 10/16

Group A Critique / Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 9 • 10/23 DC TRIP (we will reschedule this class)

Group B Critique / Writing Critique (everyone) / Prep for committee meeting (11/4)

WEEK 10 • 10/30

Prep for committee meeting (11/4)

WEEK 11 • 11/6

Group A critique / Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 12 • 11/13

Group B critique / Review one-week plan of action

WEEK 13 • 11/20

Revise Working draft (Both groups)

WEEK 14 • 11/27 CAPSTONE DEADLINE 12/1

Final Critiques (groups A and B) / Committee meeting prep (12/9)

WEEK 15 • 12/4

Gallery exhibit plans / capstone meeting 12/9

WEEK 16 • 12/11

Post mortem

ADA STATEMENT

If you have received accommodation approval through the Disability Services Office, it is imperative that you speak with me so we can work out any necessary arrangements. RIT's ADA statement is available here:

<http://www.rit.edu/~w-policy/sectionC/C12.html>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The RIT Academic Misconduct Statement is available here:

https://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/rr_conductappeals.php

ATTENDANCE

Your attendance is expected at each class meeting. Missing more than two classes will impact your final grade by half a letter grade for each absence. You are responsible for all content covered during your absence. You can review RIT's attendance policy at:

<http://www.rit.edu/~w-policy/sectionD/D4.html>

MOBILE DEVICES

Use of mobile devices is prohibited. You will be asked to leave and will be marked as absent from class.

CONTACT

- Jenn is available on campus Tuesday thru Thursday by appointment. A sign up is available on her office door.
- Josh's office hours are by appointment (email) Tuesday 10-Noon, Wednesday 2-4pm or by appointment. He will often not be on campus on Fridays and cannot meet Thursdays due to his teaching schedule that day.