

PHPJ  
455

## CLASS / LAB

Tues 11:00am – 1:50 pm  
Gannett KLAB 4090

Thur 11:00am – 12:50 pm  
Gannett 2070

## INSTRUCTOR

Josh Meltzer  
OFFICE: GAN2294  
jhmpmh@rit.edu

## OFFICE HOURS \*

Wednesdays 11:30am - 1pm  
Thursdays 1-2:30pm

\* *Whenever possible, make sure you email me in advance to set up office hours appointments.*

## CONTACTING ME

I will reply to your emails within 24 hours, and if not, please email me again. If you email me the night before an assignment is due, I cannot guarantee that I will be able to get back to you quickly, so plan ahead.

Though you are welcome to connect with me on social media, please do NOT use those mediums to contact me about classwork.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Jan 21** – Last Add/Drop

**Feb 21-22** – Special Olympics

**Mar 8-15** – Spring Break

**April 3** – Last day to drop w/ W

**April 23** – Last day of this class

**April 28** – Reading Day

**May 5 @10:45 am** – Exam time

# ADV NON-FICTION MULTIMEDIA

## MISSION

This course is designed to build upon your previous course work in mid-level photojournalism courses and will allow students to pursue projects in various media of non-fiction storytelling, including photography, video, picture editing and interactive storytelling.

Students will work on long-term assignments both individually and as part of a larger team and will pursue projects and topics that are self-generated and largely self-guided throughout the semester.

## ASSIGNMENTS

The course will include three major projects. One of those will be a required large group project. All three will be self-directed and the topic and format will be largely determined by your specific interests in media, topic and format.

Each of these larger assignments will have weekly deadlines that together will account for your grade for each of those assignments. I expect that you will both play to your strengths and personal interests when choosing media and topics for each assignment, **AND**, challenge yourself to work in areas you want to improve.

You will also have a few smaller assignments that will allow you to investigate and explore professional work and develop tutorials which will expand our collective knowledge.

## DEADLINES

All assignments are due at the beginning of class of the due date. You must be present on assignment deadline classes to receive a grade at all. Failure to be present in person will be equivalent to a reduction of one letter grade.

Late work will receive a reduction of a letter grade for every 24 hours it's late starting immediately after the beginning of class.

## GRADING

Three Larger Projects (x3)	66%
Technical Tutorials (x2)	14%
Inspiration Workshares (x2)	10%
Critique & Participation	10%

### Q: What I will count for participation?

A: *Discussing work in class, providing feedback to fellow students, asking questions that you have based on readings or assignments and commenting on work that you find on your own. Taking good notes, being an active listener and leader in promoting friendly discussion in class and labs.*

### Q: What does not count for participation?

A: *Simply showing up for class, showing up on time, only speaking when prompted, or in general, being a passive student.*

## GRADING SCALES

94-100 pts = A	77-79 pts = C+
90-93 pts = A-	73-76 pts = C
87-89 pts = B+	70-72 pts = C-
83-86 pts = B	60-69 pts = D
80-82 pts = B-	0-59 pts = F

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

You can expect that I will always offer constructive and timely feedback and encourage and expect you to do your best and put full effort into your work as I will do for you as your teacher. I will be on time and prepared for each class and expect that you will as well. I always welcome your constructive feedback about the course, assignments and my presentations at any point in the semester.

Leave excuses at the door, be ready to learn, which means overcoming some failures and learning from those mistakes, which we all make. Be open to constructive feedback from me, your classmates and other faculty on your work.

## CELL PHONES

Do not use your cell phones in class unless directed to to view a project or test work. Please leave them in your bag or pocket. You will be asked to leave if you are using them for non-class related activities.

Likewise while in Lab, stay on task and avoid checking social media while in class on lab or laptop computers.

## GRADING LEVELS

[ A ] The work has exceptional merit: superior vision, creativity, initiative in problem solving, thoughtfulness and effort, and fulfills all assignment requirements and goals in an exceptional and significant manner. Technical quality of work is excellent. It follows assignment instructions. The assignment is complete, (all specifications of the assignment - amount, content, etc. have been adhered to) and shows no technical flaws in exposure, nor printing. Not only is the student able to communicate a clear idea or intent, but also is able to do so in an inventive, engaging manner effectively using formal and technical decisions. The work not only responds appropriately to the assignment, but it pushes it in innovative, and unexpected positive directions.

[ B ] Work is well done. Work exhibits good vision, creativity, initiative in problem solving, thoughtfulness and effort, and fulfills assignment requirements and goals in a better-than-average manner; however, vision, storytelling, and/or aesthetic quality could be improved. The assignment is complete and shows very few technical flaws. The student is able to communicate a clear intent in as much as the work engages viewer attention through good use of formal and technical tools. The work respond appropriately to the assignment.

[ C ] Work is of average quality. Work exhibits acceptable but average vision, creativity, storytelling, thoughtfulness and effort, and fulfills assignment requirements and goals in an average manner. The assignment is complete, though there may be some technical problems. The work responds appropriately to the assignment.

[ D ] Work shows a barely adequate effort. Work demonstrates some effort to fulfill the assignment requirements and goals but is unacceptable and poorly executed. The work demonstrates that the student tried to fulfill the assignment but had serious technical problems or did not carry through with enough effort to produce a usable assignment. The assignment is incomplete, and/or there exist significant errors. The work expresses the intent of the student in a confused, ineffective manner. Little serious attempt is made to use formal and technical tools to communicate clear, intended meaning. The work fails to respond to the central problems posed by the assignment.

[ F ] Student turned in something, but the work is unacceptable. Work does not fulfill assignment requirements and goals and demonstrates unacceptable effort.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Grading your assignments will be based on the following criteria.

- Vision and planning to meet and exceed the needs of each assignment
- Creativity
- Research
- Technical superiority
- Editing
- Written components
- Deadline met

## ATTENDANCE

Your attendance in every class is absolutely critical, as each lesson builds upon the previous one, and I will not be able to go back and repeat missed material. This course only meets weekly so missing one day is a whole week of class. Please do not come late or miss class, as it's disruptive to everyone.

If you know you must be absent some time in the future, you should let me know as far in advance as possible so that I can help you find ways to get caught up. I'll be happy to help you get caught up for things like SERIOUS health issues, family emergencies and religious holidays. If you are too sick to attend class, please email me before the start of class time and connect with classmates or the TA for missed material. Simply waking up tired or with a headache does not indicate a serious health issue. <http://www.rit.edu/~w-policy/sectionD/D4.html>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his or her own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used.

To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. Disposition of Offenses - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal.

The university encourages all students to become familiar with the RIT Honor Code <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/p030> and with RIT's Academic Honesty Policy <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d080>.

## TITLE IX

RIT is committed to providing a safe learning environment, free of harassment and discrimination as articulated in our university policies located here <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/d190-interim-policy-student-gender-based-and-sexual-misconduct-policy-title-ix>

## CRITIQUES

One reminder about critiques in class. I want involvement from everyone. The critiques need to be honest and constructive. You can be tough without tearing people apart. A thin line often separates what is perceived to be constructive versus destructive feedback. Find the balance, and when in doubt, take the higher road.

Likewise, feedback that is full of hot air and praise does little to help one another grow. Speak positively when you really feel something is great, and critique when you have constructive feedback and suggestions. Participate, participate, participate. This will be part of your grade.

When receiving a critique, you need a similar balance. There is a fine line between defending your position and making excuses. Be a good listener. Don't be so connected to your work that you lose sight of how it could be better. You need to develop a thick skin and an open mind. We will use our time to focus on solutions instead of problems. I want you all to be successful. Asking questions is never wrong.

Honest critiques are sometimes not easy to give or receive, and I understand that, but we have a limited time together and I want to use this time to make our work stronger. Liken it to an athlete who has to suffer through training in order to perform at his or her best.

## LAB & MATERIALS

Most lab days in this course will be used for just that – lab. To use the time effectively you will ALWAYS need two things:

1. Material to work on (still images shot, archive material to edit, video to edit, website coding to work on, research to perform, etc.)
2. Hard drives, headphones, camera cards to ingest, etc.

The lab times will be largely self-directed, so it is imperative that you plan in advance how you will be prepared each week to effectively use your lab time. Failure to bring in material to work on will be consistent with an absence.

## COURSE READING & WRITING

While there are no assigned textbooks for this course, you will occasionally have required reading/watching outside of class. In some cases I will refer to textbooks from previous semesters or assign other reading.

Each project will require writing as well, and we will set up each assignment with proposal writing in advance of the project and story summaries or text with the completed projects.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

RIT is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities.

Students with Disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Disability Services Office Student Alumni Union. It is located in the Student Alumni Union, Room 1150; the Web site is [www.rit.edu/dso](http://www.rit.edu/dso). After you receive accommodation approval, it is imperative that you see me during office hours so that we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Disability Services Office Student Alumni Union.

<http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/c120>