



Midwestern State University
MASS COMMUNICATION
FOUNDATIONS OF MEDIA PRODUCTION – MCOM 3313
Fall 2020: FA D101/ONLINE, MW 9AM – 10:20AM

Contact Information

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Course Description

Hands-on workshops and lectures introduce students to the concepts and technical skills required for multimedia production. Students examine the interactions between audio, visual design, video, broadcasting, photography and journalism. Through a series of writing and media projects, students gain a foundation of technical skills that prepares them for more advanced production coursework.

Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate appropriate writing and editing skills in a visual media environment.
- Gather, analyze, organize and synthesize information on contemporary topics to develop a story.
- Demonstrate the application of contemporary technology, terminology and techniques of media production.
- Understand effective visual language and how to apply it to convey messages and enhance the communication process.

Required Materials: Class 10 SD Card (64GB, 95mb/sec write speed)

Recommended Texts: *In the Blink of an Eye* (2nd Edition), Walter Murch, 1995
Sight, Sound, Motion (7th ed.), Herbert Zettl, 2016

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Any writing that is not the work of you or your group members is plagiarism. Students in this course are expected to adhere to the MSU Student Honor Code.

Grading

Productions: Each student will complete a variety of single and team productions designed to give a hands-on study of field production techniques including: short documentaries, interview projects, multitrack audio editing, news packages, and event/performance based projects. **Talent:** Students will have the option of becoming on-air talent, but it is not required.

Location Strike: Whenever an outside production is required; it will be the responsibility of all in the class to transport all needed gear to and from the location in a safe and timely manner. All items must be stored properly and returned in working order. If there is an issue with damage or malfunctioning equipment a proper report must be logged before you go out on location.

Assignments	%
Shot Composition	10
Documentary Project	20
Audio Documentary/Podcast	15
Writing Assignments	20
Basic Video/Audio Test	20
Participation	10

Late work will be accepted at a reduced grade. Projects are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date they're due. Any late work will lose 15% of the assignment grade. Grading will be based on your comprehension and use of theory, methodology, and technique discussed in class. If you need an extension, please message me at least 24hrs in advance of a deadline.

Senior Portfolio Requirement: Please note that all mass communication majors are required to submit a portfolio as part of their Internship course (Internship is a prerequisite to Senior Production). This requirement is a part of MSU's reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is non-negotiable. Through the portfolio, students are required to demonstrate communication competence through the written word and visual communication; two examples of each competency are required.

As you go through this and other classes, you are responsible for saving course work that could be included in your senior portfolio.

Please see me, your adviser, the department chair or any mass communication faculty member for handouts with more information ("Mass Communication Portfolio Competencies" and "Mass Communication Portfolio FAQ"). These handouts are also available on our department web page: <http://finearts.mwsu.edu/masscomm/>.

Deadlines must be met. All missed deadlines result in a 25% loss on the project. Three missed deadlines will result in being dropped from the course. Deadlines will be handed out with assignments.

Course Activities: This class will consist of lectures, in and out of class screenings, and audio/video projects.

Course Materials and Readings: In addition to the recommended texts, a number of current articles will be distributed, usually via D2L (these will be required readings).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance: Each student will be allowed 3 absences for any reason. If you are to be absent on the date a project is due, you must still turn your project in to

me on time. Beyond these three absences, the student will lose 25% of their final semester grade for any absences for any reason that is not university approved. Missing a production day will result in a failing grade on that production.

- **THE INSTRUCTOR'S RECORDS REGARDING ABSCENCES ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT COUNT AND IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK IN IF LATE.**

Withheld Grades/Semester Grades Policy: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Course Conduct: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may direct, from time to time, on the possible use of cell phones for legitimate class reasons. Recording the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, or by obtaining written consent by the instructor.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the

financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Face Covering, Seating Arrangement and Cleaning Protocols

Students are expected to wear their face coverings at all times when in the D-Wing. Face covering means CDC approved masks, not bandanas or scarves. Since food and beverages are not allowed into the media lab, there is no exception for eating and drinking. Students will be allowed to pick their workstations on the first day of class and that will be their seat for the whole

semester. This is to minimize the number of students who use any specific workstation. You will be responsible for sanitizing your workstation when you arrive and before you leave after using it. This applies during and outside of class hours. Please don't use someone else's workstation outside normal class hours.

Students will be expected to sanitize equipment before they check it out and when they return it as well. Each student will be assigned access to specific pieces of equipment to minimize the number of students who use any single camera, microphone, light kit or recording device. Students will be allowed to use their own equipment if approved by the instructor. You will be expected to arrange usage needs with your equipment group.

University Information on Campus Coronavirus Policies

Refer to: <https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus/>

Office Hours

I will be holding the required number of office hours this semester; however, I will not be meeting with students in my office. If you require an in-person meeting, a sign-up will be available on my door. We will meet with masks in the studio. If you need help on a project, I will be able to access your computer from my office to demonstrate how to fix issues you may be having. Otherwise, the expectation will be that meetings are done via Zoom, Skype or Meet.

Social Distancing

I expect adherence to social distancing policies in the entire D-Wing of the Mass Communication building. Students must maintain a six foot separation. If you do not adhere to this, you will lose equipment privileges, regardless of any assignment you have due.

Class Structure

We will be using a split student model this semester. Only half of the class can be in the lab at one time. You will be assigned to either Monday or Wednesday for in-person instruction; however, you will be expected to attend the online zoom broadcast unless told otherwise. Attendance will be taken for the in-person and online students. Recordings of the lectures will be posted online.

Attendance Addendum

Any student who will miss class due to illness should notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you are experiencing symptoms of any illness, please stay home and attend the online lecture. If you are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19, please seek medical help right away.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Please understand that we will use D2L very heavily just in case there is a need to switch to online instruction. If that switch were to occur our equipment and software will change, but our projects and course goals will not. All projects will remain the same in case of a switch to online instruction.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 08/24 – 08/28	COURSE INTRODUCTION AUDIO UNIT Lecture: Sound Basics
Week 2 08/31 – 09/04	AUDIO UNIT Skills Unit: Intro to Audio Editing in ProTools
Week 3 09/07 – 09/11	AUDIO UNIT Skills Unit: Editing in ProTools
Week 4 09/14 – 09/18	<IN-CLASS WORK TIME> <IN-CLASS WORK TIME> AUDIO PROJECT DUE 9/17 (8AM)
Week 5 09/21 – 09/25	NEWS WRITING UNIT BEGINS Lecture: Broadcast Style Lecture: Leads
Week 6 09/28 – 10/02	NEWS WRITING UNIT Lecture: Formatting Lecture: Story Writing

Week 7 10/05 – 10/09	VIDEO UNIT Lecture: Video Basics Reading: Video Basics Handout Leads/Story Writing Due 10/09
Week 8 10/12 – 10/16	Lecture: Composition & Camera Lecture: Composition & Lenses
Week 9 10/19 – 10/23	Lecture: Media Aesthetics: Lighting Lecture: Media Aesthetics: Lighting COMPOSITION PROJECT DUE 10/22 (8AM)
Week 10 10/26 – 10/30	Lecture: Interviewing Lecture: Lighting
Week 11 11/02 – 11/06	Lecture: Editing in Media Composer Lecture: Editing in Media Composer
Week 12 11/09 – 11/13	Media Composer Practice Media Composer Practice
Week 13 11/16 – 11/20	Lecture: Editing Your Documentary Lecture: Story Development
Week 14 11/23 – 11/27	Lecture: Editing Your Documentary DOCUMENTARY PROJECT DUE 11/24 (5PM)

	HALF WEEK/THANKSGIVING
Week 15 11/30 – 12/04	<WORK DAY/STUDY WEEK> WE WILL DO AN ONLINE REVIEW BEFORE THE FINAL
Week 16 12/07 – 12/11	FINALS WEEK MEDIA PACKAGE SCRIPTS DUE 12/11 (5PM) Final: 12/09, 8AM-10AM