**Course Number:** Comm-4390_004
**Course Title:** Topics In Communication: Media Professional Initiative
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Semester:** August Session 2016

**Time/Location:**  
Week 1: MTWR 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. BH 235  
Week 2: MTWR 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On location (does not count commute time)

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**Instructor:** Edward R. Tyndall (Media Professional Guest Producer Jason Flynn, Guest Cinematographer Seamus Mulligan-Ferry)  
**Office:** 223B Bay Hall  
**Office Hours:** Mon, Tues and Wed 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (except when on set)  
**Email:** edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu  
**Phone:** 361-825-2296

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**TEXT:** None

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** 1-quart drinking container, sun hat, sunscreen, comfortable/cool clothing, packed lunch in small cooler for each shoot day.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**  
This course will be very demanding. It requires participation in an active film shoot (a volatile and stressful environment). Be prepared. Time outside of class during the shoot days will be required to be successful in this course. You must have the ability to get to and from set each day (set locations may vary over the shoot and be on remote locations from TAMUCC campus). Necessary work that occurs before crew call on set and after each day’s wrap is considered homework, not contact hours! Commute to and from set is not considered contact hours! The last Friday of the course may include shooting pickups of missed coverage.

**DESCRIPTION:**  
This Topics In Communication course gives students diverse learning opportunities while working with active industry professionals on faculty led film projects. Students train with production experts in intensive shooting environments while serving in key crew positions such as Assistant Camera Operator, Costume Designer, Production Sound Mixer, Script Supervisor, Assistant Director, Production Assistant and more.

**PRE/COREQUISITES:**  
None, but Production II is recommended.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**  
-Demonstrate effective collaborative skills in film production environments.  
-Illustrate competency in basic film crew positions.
ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/document). No incompletes will be given for this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an F.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Strict attendance is required. There are no “excused” absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within one week (seven days) after you return to class.

After the second (2nd) absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (3.33 points on a 100-point scale) for each absence. After the fifth (5th) unexcused absence, the student will be given a failing grade in the course. Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.

DROPPING A CLASS:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This
prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING:**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:**
Students who feel they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website (http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**SAFETY**
We will be operating in dangerous heat conditions. You must be drinking 1 quart of water each hour. You should continue to hydrate in the evenings between shoot days. Safety is everyone’s responsibility. If you ever feel poorly, or notice another classmate exhibiting signs of heat exhaustion, notify the producer immediately.

**GRADING:**
5% Exercise 1 (Crew Rehearsal)
5% Exercise 2 (Cast/Crew Rehearsal)
5% Exercise 3 (Cast/Crew Rehearsal)
10% Written Crew Position Report
50% Film Shoot Performance
25% Additional Shoot Duties, (performed on set and away from set)
GRADING SCALE:
100 – 90 = A
89.99 – 80 = B
79.99 – 70 = C
69.99 – 60 = D
59.99 – 0 = F

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

August 8th --- Review of Syllabus, Assignment of Crew Positions, Handouts
Assignment --- Begin work on Written Crew Position Report, Read Film Script

August 9th --- Exercise 1/ Crew Rehearsals
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties

August 10th --- Exercise 2/ Rehearsals with Cast
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties

August 11th --- Exercise 3/ Rehearsals with Cast
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties
Due --- Written Crew Position Report

August 15th --- Shoot Day 1
Assignment --- Production Duties

August 16th --- Shoot Day 2
Assignment --- Production Duties

August 17th --- Shoot Day 3
Assignment --- Production Duties

August 18th --- Shoot Day 4
Assignment --- Production Duties

August 19th --- Pickups
Due --- Crew Performance Evaluations