As Part of the Media Arts BA, TAMUCC’s Media Production Emphasis prepares students for production-focused jobs in film, television and new media. Students develop expertise in shooting, editing and visual storytelling using state of the art equipment while working with faculty who are active visual artists in their field.

Course Number: MEDA-3313.001  
Course Title: Intermediate Production: Documentary  
Credit Hours: 3  
Semester: Spring 2018  
Time/Location: Wednesday 09:00-11:50AM BH 235

Instructor: Nicholas Manley
Office: 222c Bay Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12:30pm-3pm
Email: nicholas.manley@tamucc.edu
Office Phone: 361.825.2502

TEXT: None

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:
Work in the Editing Lab OUTSIDE of class time is required to be successful in this class!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
One SanDisk 16GB SD Class 10 Ultra Card

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION: Overview of tools and concepts necessary to produce content for digital media environments, such as image editing, video editing, sound production, and web design. Students explore aesthetic, ethical, and design issues as well as acquire basic tactical education in the tools used to create digital media.

**NOTE. The above catalogue description is being replaced by the description below. The description below is the most current conception of the class.

Overview of tools and skills necessary to produce digital media content, such as editing, sound recording, producing and directing for film, television and new media.

PREREQUISITES:
Intro to Media Production / Editing I
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
- Understand and apply basic production skills in the creation of digital media content.
- Practice the development of artistic voice in audiovisual storytelling.
- Demonstrate the synthesis of technical skills and artistic voice through the creation of introductory level media projects.

STATEMENT ON INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE:
The spirit of inclusivity, diversity and tolerance is central to the ethos of the Media Production emphasis. No student will be denied positions of leadership based on race, gender, sexual orientation or intellectual perspective. Students will be chosen for positions of leadership on media projects based on an observed track record of excellence with consideration given to their expressed areas of interest.

As a fine arts emphasis, freedom of expression is a central tenant of our program. Therefore, no idea constructively advanced within the dictated structure of the classroom will be suppressed. All forms of creative expression, formally advanced, will be subject to the rigorous criticism central to the foundations of the fine arts tradition.

As an emphasis grounded in exploring the human condition, difficult, challenging and controversial subject matter will be explored in the classroom. Our work as artists and critical thinkers challenges us to face such difficult material with the greatest respect for divergent perspectives and to judge the merits of such subject matter through rational and civil discourse. The Media Production emphasis is committed to intellectual freedom and an environment of engagement that allows all students to contribute to this discourse in a constructive environment that fosters our evolution as media artists and critical thinkers.

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/documentation). 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) unexcused absence (excluding documented, medical emergencies as just noted), the course grade will be reduced by 5 points (on a 100-point scale). After the third (3rd) 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.

Failure to attend class during the screening of your work will result in a zero on that assignment. This includes the final exam.

**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:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has 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. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf. 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’s Office.

Production Assignments
This semester, you will be required to complete five production assignments. Each assignment is designed to put the theories, concepts and skills you learn in class into practice. Projects will be assessed on both technical and creative merits.

Production Assignment #1: Photo Poem

As filmmakers, we must learn to communicate information, thoughts and emotions through the visual language. For this assignment, each student will select a short poem (of the student’s choosing!) and will create 5-10 photograph visual representation of the text. The photographs need not be literal in their interpretation of the poetry: if the poem mentions ‘the ocean,’ you need not simply take a photo at the beach. Push beyond the obvious!

Production Assignment #2: Actuality Film

The Actuality Film is a non-fiction film that, like the documentary film, uses footage of real subjects (i.e. events, people, places, things) yet unlike the documentary is not necessarily structured into a larger argument. I want you to find a subject that exists in the ‘real’ world, and capture it on video. You should have little or no control over the subject, but absolute control over how you are presenting it on the film.
[Try for something more ambitious and creative than your roommate getting up in the morning. Filmmaking is about engaging society and the world at large – i.e. the world outside your dorm room.]

For this project, you will work in pairs, and EACH student will shoot a single 50 second shot. No editing is required on this project. Filming for this project will be completed in class. Students must save their shot, and post it to their Vimeo account.

**Production Assignment #3: Light Diary**

As filmmakers we must develop a keen eye for lighting. Many interesting lighting situations exist around us every day that we don’t pay much attention to. This project invites you to pay close attention to those instances of light. For this assignment, you will create a short (under 2 minute) film showcasing a variety of images which capture various dimensions of light (on a face, a landscape, a room, a surface...) in visually compelling ways. There need not be any narrative link between the images but you should determine some organizational structure so that it stands alone as a complete piece.

This project must be shot on the TAMUCC cameras, as it will provide you some much needed time to become familiar with that camera. There are no requirements or restrictions on the use of sound.

**Production Assignment #4: Profile Film**

The ability to create memorable characters, whether in non-fiction or fictional filmmaking, is an essential skill for all filmmakers. For this project, you and a partner will produce a short (under 3 minutes) documentary that profiles an individual subject. This piece must include an interview with the subject, as well as additional visual material to make for an interesting/dynamic finished project.

**Production Assignment #5: Final Project**

This is a individual assignment designed to combine all you have learned in the previous assignments into a final piece for this semester. This content and scope of this project will be designed by each student individually, and tailored to their personal interests and creative goals. This film must be non-fiction in nature, and be no longer that 4 minutes in length.
Grading --

Your final grade for this class will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Punctuality</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment #1: Photo Poem</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment #2: Actuality</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment #3: Light Diary</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment #4: Profile Film</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment #5: Final Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grade Appeals --

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this 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.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamu.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

Course Calendar --

Class #1
Introductions / Visual Storytelling
HW: Production Assignment #1 (Photo Poem); purchase class textbook

Class #2
Reading Quiz / Review Production Assignment #1 / Early Film History / C100/
HW: Prep for Production Assignment #2 (Actualities)

Class #3
C100 Camera / Production Assignment #2 - Actuality Shoot
HW: Create a personal Vimeo page; Upload Production Assignment #2 to Vimeo
Reading: The Lens

Class #4
Screening: Scene Analysis, Documentary Modes
Reading: Editing Digital Video
Class #5
Introduction to Editing / Adobe Premiere Software
Reading: Lighting

Class #6
Lighting Basic / 3-Point Lighting
HW: Prep for Production Assignment #3

Class #7
Production Assignment #3: Light Diary
HW: Edit Production Assignment #3
Reading: Sound Recording Systems

Class #8
Review Production Assignment #3 / Sound in Film / Microphones & Recorders
HW: Online critiques, Prep for Production Assignment #4
Reading: Sound Recording Systems II

Class #9
Production Assignment #4: Profile Film
HW: Edit Production Assignment #4
Reading: Before You Begin Production

Class #10
Review Production Assignment #4 / Modes of Documentary
HW: Online critiques, Prep for Final Project shoots

Class #11
Review Final Project Proposals / Production Assignment #5: Final Project
HW: Editing for Final Projects

Class #12
Production Assignment #5: Final Project
HW: Editing for Final Projects

Class #13
Production Assignment #5: Final Project / Rough Cuts
HW: Online critiques, Editing for Final Projects

Class #14
Fine Cut Edits
**Additional Notes --**

- Bring a notebook and pen to every class!

- I’m planning to use Facebook as the platform to organize the classes online component. If you all would prefer to use Blackboard for this, I am open to switching. Be sure to ‘like’ the Media Production at TAMU-CC Facebook page!

- Feel free to call/email/message me any time. I’ve given you options by which to contact me, and I expect you to use them as needed.

- My classroom technology policy is always evolving… I will use my cell phone throughout the semester to check the time and keep us on schedule. You are allowed to do the same. Anything more involved that that (writing text messages or emails, browsing the internet) constitutes an inappropriate use of technology, and will not be tolerated. First violation, you will get a warning. Second violation, you will be dismissed from that class meeting.

- You must create original work for all assignments this semester. If you wish to combine production work for this class with an assignment from another class, you must notify me so that appropriate expectations can be set by all parties. These are academic integrity issues, and if violated, will be reported to the Department Chair for review.

- Attendance to our Final Exam meeting time is mandatory. Make all travel plans after the exam time.

- For additional production opportunities, consider joining the Production Club! For the Fall 2015 semester, the Production Club will meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

- Work produced in this class will be eligible for selection into the TAMUCC Media Production Track Student Showcase in the spring semester. Selective inclusion in the showcase provides students with networking opportunities and serves as a portfolio-building event.

- The South Texas Cinémathèque, a collaborative screening series run by The Department of Communication and Media and the Art Museum of South Texas, is designed to broaden Media students’ exposure to independent film by bringing internationally recognized filmmakers to Corpus Christi, Texas for discussions, screenings and lectures. Keep your eyes peeled for the date, and make every effort to attend. You won’t regret it!

- Bring this syllabus to class each week. It is subject to change due to contingencies.