**Multimedia Reporting**

**JRN 3510**

MW 9:55 p.m. – 11:35 p.m.

Professor Emily H. Johnson

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Office hours: 12 p.m. Wednesdays and by appointment

The purpose of this course is to teach you the fundamentals of multimedia journalism. The course will consist of three main units: photojournalism, audio reporting, and video journalism, with additional lessons on social media, blogging, and other multimedia tools throughout. You will report and produce real New York stories.

**What to expect:**

1. This is a hands-on class. You will be going out into the city to spend time speaking with people, conducting research, and collecting color for your stories.
2. You will report and produce three major multimedia projects over the course of the semester. These stories will count toward the majority of your final grade.
3. This course will be run like a collaborative newsroom. Your pitches and your stories-in-progress will be workshopped in class by me and your fellow classmates, so everyone will have an opportunity to step back and think like an editor.

**GRADES**

Participation/attendance/blog assignments 20 percent

Photo project 25 percent

Radio project 25 percent

Video/final project 30 percent

**ATTENDANCE AND DEADLINES**

Regular attendance is essential. The learning for this course will happen in the classroom and in the field, not in a textbook. Please arrive on time as we will start each class promptly. Lateness and absences will be factored into your participation grade.

Since this is a journalism class, you will need to meet your deadlines. Late assignments will be penalized; if you’re having trouble getting a project together in time for whatever reason, please communicate with me about it *ahead of time* so I can help you strategize. There is nothing quick and easy about multimedia production; leave yourself more time than you think you need to plan, record, produce, edit, export and upload!

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students will be held to the highest ethical standards—both in terms of academic integrity and journalistic ethics (we will discuss this distinction more in depth in class). Students will fail if they are found to have fabricated (made up) or plagiarized any assignments.

Here is Baruch College’s definition of plagiarism:

1. Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes (a functional limit is four or more words taken from the work of another)

2. Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging them

3. Using information that is not considered common knowledge without acknowledging the source

4. Failure to acknowledge collaborators on homework assignments

**EQUIPMENT**

Recommended but not required: Each student should consider bringing to class an external hard drive (500 GB or 1TB capacity, with appropriate cable [Thunderbolt or Firewire]) for connection to computers in journalism labs. This will make their work transportable from lab to lab, on campus or at home. This drive will be available in the college bookstore, though a comparable model may be purchased elsewhere.

The Journalism Department will supply audio recorders, digital cameras and accessories needed to complete assignments. A sign-out procedure will be instituted. (Students are welcome to work with their own equipment.)

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Please note that this is a rough timeline of the major assignments; topics and deadlines may be shifted to reflect developments in the news or guest speakers.

**Week 1: Wednesday, Aug. 28**

Introductions; syllabus; course overview. Intro to photojournalism

**Week 2**: **Wednesday, Sept. 4 and Thursday, Sept. 5 (No class on Monday Sept. 2 because of Labor Day, Thursday follows a Monday schedule)**

Intro to DSLR photography; learn to use the cameras. Look at photo essays. Assignment: Come up with a pitch for a photo essay.

**Week 3: Monday, Sept. 9 and Wednesday, Sept. 11**

Pitches due. Workshop pitches as a class. Practice photo editing.

**Week 4: Monday, Sept. 16 and Wednesday, Sept. 18**

In-class editing on photo essays. Photoville visit.

Wednesday’s class will be not be held as scheduled; instead, we will be visiting Photoville under the Brooklyn Bridge which is only open Thursday through the weekend. I will be setting up time slots when we can tour it together on the days it is open; if you can’t make one of those, you will have the option to go on your own. Everyone will be given a small related assignment.

**Week 5: Monday, Sept. 23 and Wednesday, Sept. 25**

Photo essays due.

**Week 6:** **Wednesday, October 2 (no class Monday, Sept. 30)**

Intro to radio

**Week 7: Monday, October 7 (no class Wednesday, October 9)**

Radio pitches due. Pitch workshop.

**Week 8: Wednesday, October 16 (no class Monday, October 14 for Columbus Day)**

Audio editing workshop.

**Week 9: Monday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 23**

Scripts due. In-class editing on radio stories.

**Week 10:** **Monday, October 28 and Wednesday, October 30**

Radio stories due. Screenings and feedback as a class.

**Week 11: Monday, November 4 and Wednesday, November 6**

Intro to video. In-class shooting exercise.

**Week 12: Monday, November 11 and Wednesday, November 13**

Video/final project pitches due. Pitch workshop.

**Week 13: Monday, November 18 and Wednesday, November 20**

Video editing workshop.

**Week 14: Monday, November 25 and Wednesday, November 27**

Rough cut of video due.

**Week 15: Monday, December 2 and Wednesday, December 4**

In-class production and editing on final projects.

**Week 16: Monday, December 9 and Wednesday, December 11**

Final project due. Screenings and feedback as a class.