RTD 365A: SINGLE CHANNEL FIELD PRODUCTION  
Fall 2015

Dept of Radio TV, College of Mass Communication and Media Arts  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Meetings:  
001: Monday and Wednesday 1-3 pm  
002: Tuesday and Thursday 9-11 am  
Communication Building 9E (in New Media Center)

Associate Professor Sarah Lewison  slewison@siu.edu  
Communication 1050F  415-265-5988 (text is ok)  
Office Hours  Tuesday 1-4  W 9-12 and by appointment

Grad Assistant: Ellen Esling  ellenesling@siu.edu

**RTD 365A** covers single channel field video production at the intersection of industrial practice and personal expression. Discussion, readings, and lectures introduce typical professional challenges that will foster creativity, problem solving abilities, and critical insight. Production prompts build skills in efficiently planning, producing and editing short video productions. This course includes lectures, in-class exercises, demonstrations, screenings and discussion. Assignments include narrative fiction, documentary, commercial and experimental genres, individual and group work. Productions will be accompanied by practical and analytical reading.

**Workload:** Plan for at least 6 hours per week to do your work for this fast moving class. If you fall behind it will be difficult to catch up, so prepare now by setting aside time for your assignments in the evenings and weekends. Do not wait for the last minute- your projects and your grades will suffer. It is important you come to class and complete assignments on time. Presentation of work in progress and participation in class discussion is part of your grade. Do take time each week to reflect on the readings and the work we are watching, so you can participate in discussion.

**Grade Requirement:** RTD 365A is a required course for the TV/Video Production Specialization Track. Students must receive a "C" in order to complete their degree.

**Attendance:** Students should attend all classes. More than 3 absences leads to a full letter downgrade. Three "lates" (not present for attendance) equals one absence.

**Materials Needed:**
- External Hard Drive, Mac formatted, minimally 7200 rpm, 250 GB. You must have a drive by WEEK 2. This can be purchased with financial aid. See the advisor for the necessary form
- SD Cards (at least 16 GB)
- A BINDER with dividers for your production book.
- A notebook and writing tool.
- Headphones (preferably) or earbuds.
Expectations
• An email address. Check your email twice a week.
• Do readings by assigned class period and take notes on your readings
• Be respectful and attentive toward your classmates and the classroom atmosphere.
• Produce work reflecting college level- emotional and intellectual maturity
• Meet instructors twice in the semester
• Do your own work: Work must be done by students in the class. Videos filmed by students not in our class receive an F. Work from last year/semester/other schools is also disqualified.
• **Meet deadlines, do all homework assignments on time- come to class prepared.**
• **Phones** away unless they are part of an assignment. No texting, no calls.

**Class environment and expression:** Be prepared to share your thoughts in class discussion. You are expected to express yourself freely and experiment in the content of your work. Listening to others is also important. Be aware others may feel differently than you- disagreement is a part of a democratic life, and sometimes a sign something valuable is being said. Be prepared to defend your work with arguments that are substantiated by research and critical thinking. Likewise, while you might be honest in your criticism of the work of another, be aware you need to support your critique with explanation and alternate ideas. If a video or film screened in class shocks or offends you, and you feel you must leave the classroom, let me know. You may leave the class until we inform you the film is over.

**Academic Integrity:** Students must do their own work and conform to SIUC academic integrity standards. Your writing must be your own and you need to cite all language, music, video and images used in your projects, unless excused as the basis of a project. Unassigned plagiarism will be prosecuted under the Student Conduct Code. Learn about what constitutes copying. For more information, ask us or read the Student Conduct Code [www.siuc.edu/~policies/policies/conduct.html](http://www.siuc.edu/~policies/policies/conduct.html)

**Tell me!** In the event of illness or injury, contact me as soon as feasible. Absences for illness or family emergencies need to be followed up with a written notice documenting the reason for absence (with signature by a doctor or another person in charge).

**Grading**

| Attendance | 3 permitted absences, then grade reduces 10% on 4th absence |
| Final production book- binder | 100 |
| EXERCISE 1: Framing (in class) | 10 |
| EXERCISE 2: Lighting (in class) | 10 |
| EXERCISE 3: Sound (in class) | 10 |
| HOMEWORK on Lighting | 20 |
| PROJECT 1: APPROPRIATION FILM | 50 |
| PROJECT 2: PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT | 50 |
| Midterm (exam on framing, lighting and sound terms) | 50 |
| PROJECT 3: NARRATIVE (HOMAGE) | 75 |
| Narrative pitch/presentation/research | 25 |
| PROJECT 4: SHORT DOCUMENTARY | 100 |
| Documentary pitch/research | 50 |
| Vocabulary, concept usage, participation, cooperation, etc | 50 |
| **TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS** | **600** ("A” grade) |
Grading follows the following parameters:
1. You have integrated information and concepts learned in class
2. Willing to explore an idea and look at it from different angles, take risks
3. Participates in and responsive to critical suggestions: willing to re-work and improve projects
4. Self-motivation and direction. This entails reflecting on your work and efforts and acting.
5. Conceptual engagement - projects are passionate and interesting, reach out to an audience
6. Technical mastery: exposure, focus, image stability, edit, composition and
7. Meet deadlines and pay attention to assignment criteria (length of videos etc)
8. Documented evidence of preproduction preparation (Production binder and notes)
9. Worked well with other students, cooperative and fun!

Extra Credit Policy: There is no automatic extra credit. Participants in SPC-TV, and CMCMA productions such as WSIU, River Region, alt.news 26:46, and so on, , and those who attend events outside of class and have good attendance can get extra credit.

Equipment Checkout: Room 1010A

Readings will all be posted online from these books:
I recommend these books if you want to build a library. They each offer excellent reference information.

BB  Bruce Block, “The Visual Story”
BT  David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, “Film Art an Introduction”
VS  Barry Braverman, “The Visual Story”
MR  Michael Rabinger, “Directing the Documentary”

Instructor reserves right to change this schedule including deleting or adding additional readings

Submitting Projects for Critique
When you are finished with your project, compress and export to Quicktime. Leave time to do this. Do not put on youtube at this point. Rename and carefully note where you move your new .mov project.
Label it like this: surname_project#_draft# (or final).mov
example: Lewison_project1_final.mov
Groups will choose names for group project submissions.

Class server space
1) Click on Desktop, and choose the top menu Go-> connect to server (shortcut is command K)
2) select nmclab.siu.edu as the server
3) Login __________________ Password________________________
4) Put project in the appropriate folder (Folders will be titled)
5) DO BEFORE CLASS; DO NOT WAIT

Section 1 RTD365A1      pw: tuesday
Section 1 RTD365A2      pw: monday
RTD 365A Weekly Course schedule

Readings at http://rtv365.blogspot.com/
We will email readings links each week – look for it!

Week 1 – August 24- August 27

READ: Visual Story (BB) Chapter 1 “Visual Components”
Visual Story (BB) Chapter 2 “Contrast and Affinity”

Mon/Tues: Intro to Course: Syllabus, Course Work, Expectations, Introductions, Etc.
Wed/Thurs: Film Screening and Discussion

ASSIGNED: PROJECT 1: APPROPRIATION FILM (LABOR DAY)

Week 2 - August 31- September 3

READ: Video Shooter (VS) Ch 3 The Video Storyteller
Visual Story (BB) Ch 3 Part 2- SPACE: The Frame
BT (Bordwell and Thompson) Experimental films: read pages 128-38 only

Mon/Tues Lecture: Paperwork, Production phases and the Production Binder
In-Class: Production Binder
Discussion on Readings: Finding story in shots
Wed/Thurs: Hands on exercises: locating appropriated footage resources, conversions, editing

Week 3 – September 7- 10

READ: BB (The Visual Story) Chapter 4 Line and Shape
Zettl Chapter 4 What Lenses Are
Bowen and Thompson, Grammar of the Shot, Chapter 2

Mon, Sept 7- No class: Labor Day- work on editing project
Tues, Sept 8: In-Class Editing Time For: "APPROPRIATION FILM (Labor Day)"
Wed/Thurs: DUE: "APPROPRIATION FILM (Labor Day)" Screening/critique

Week 4 - September 14-17

READ: Zettl Framing Ch 6.2 1
Visual Story (BB) Ch 3 Part 1 Depth cues
Bordwell and Thompson (BT) Depth Cues

ASSIGNED: PROJECT 2- PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (Group project)
ASSIGNED- HOMEWORK : Lighting analysis. Handout

Mon/Tues: Lecture: Intro to Camera, Framing, Coverage
In-Class: Camera Exposure, Focus, White Balance, and Coverage.

Week 5 - September 21-24

READ: Millerson, Practical Lighting
Rabinger (MR) Lighting Ch 10
Practices of Looking (POL) Meaning

Due Homework: Lighting analysis

Assigned: Homework: Storyboard for Public Service Announcement with Text

Mon/Tues: In-Class Lighting Exercise: Base-Light, Exposure, and Zebras.
Wed/Thurs: Lecture: Class discussion about Reading and PSA productions.

Week 6 - September 28 – October 1

Read: Bowen and Thompson, Grammar of the Shot, Chapter 3
Zettl Chapter 4.2 What Lenses See
Duncombe, Cultural Resistance Reader, Introduction

Due: Homework: Storyboard for Public Service Announcement with Text

Mon/Tues: In-Class Sound Exercise: Handhelds, Lavs, and Booms.
Wed/Thurs: In-Class meetings about PSA productions

Week 7 - October 5-8

Read: Bordwell and Thompson, Fundamentals of Film Sound
Randy Thom, Designing For Sound

Mon/Tues: Lecture, Screening and Discussion: Mise-en-Scene and Sound Design
Wed/Thurs: In-Class meetings about PSA productions

Week 8 – October 14 & 15 No Class October 12 & 13. (Fall Break)

Mar 4th: In-Class Production/Edit for: "Public Service Announcement"

Wed/Thurs: Screening and Discussion: "Public Service Announcement"

Assigned: PROJECT 3- Narrative Short (Homage) Group or individual project

Week 9 - October 19-22

Read: Elder, The Film that Changed my life (Excerpts)

Mon/Tues: Midterm Exam on Framing, Lighting and Sound Terms
Wed/Thurs: In-Class Presentations on directors Due, brainstorming and debate

Week 10 - October 26-29

Read: Video Shooter, Ch. 8 Story Command and Control &
Chapter 10 Making Light of your Story; (pg. 239-266.)
Bresson, excerpts. Prepare to discuss.

Homework Due: Storyboard for Narrative Short

Mon/Tues Screening and Discussion: Narrative production
**Week 11 – November 2-5**

**READ:** Edelstein, How Documentary Became the Most Exciting Kind of Filmmaking
Rabinger, Directing the Documentary, POV, pp 64-78
Rabinger, Directing the Documentary, Ch 11. Recognizing your artistic identity

Mon/Tues: **PROJECT 3 DUE** - Screenings of NARRATIVE SHORT (HOMAGE)

**HOMEWORK:** Bring preliminary ideas for DOCUMENTARY project, group discussion

**ASSIGNED:** PROJECT 4- “SHORT DOCUMENTARY”

**Week 12 - November 9-12 No CLASS WED NOV 11 (Veteran's Day)**

**READ:** Rabinger, Directing the Documentary, Ch 24, Interviewing (excerpts)
Zettl, Chapter 8, Field lighting *(zettlCh8.2field.pdf)*

Mon/Tues: Interviewing. In-Class Interview: Set-up, Production, and the Edit.
Thurs: Screening, “American Revolutionary” or tba, with discussion

**Week 13 - November 16-19**

**HOMEWORK:** Write short treatments about your documentary

Mon/Tues: In-Class presentations: “SHORT DOCUMENTARY”
Wed/Thurs: In-Class presentations: “SHORT DOCUMENTARY”

**Week 14 - November 23 & 24 No CLASS NOV 25/26 (Thanksgiving)**

**HOMEWORK:** Revise your treatment and create a title image.

Mon/Tues: In-Class production time “SHORT DOCUMENTARY”
Workshop: Making legible credits and titles / Compression formats

**Week 15 - November 30 – December 3**

Mon/Tues: In-Class screenings and critiques of “SHORT DOCUMENTARY” rough cuts.

**HOMEWORK:** Submit opening and closing credits for review by instructors.

Wed/Thurs: In-Class screenings and critiques of “SHORT DOCUMENTARY” rough cuts.

**Week 16 – December 7-10**

Mon/Tues: In-Class screenings and critiques of “SHORT DOCUMENTARY” fine cuts.
Wed/Thurs: In-Class screenings and critiques of “SHORT DOCUMENTARY” fine cuts.

**Week 17 – Dec 17: Final screenings / Finals week ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**

Section 1 (Tuesday/Thursday) final is **Thursday Dec 17 at 9 am**
Section 2 (Monday/Wed) final is **Friday Dec 18 at 1 pm**
University's Emergency Procedures

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**Students With a Disability:**

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor what is the safest way to assist them.

**Tornado:**

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to be quiet in the basement as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

**Fire:** During the fall semester we have a Fire Drill. Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class. These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.

**Bomb Threat:**

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an all clear. **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES.** Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

**Shooter in the Building:**

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe.
If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights. Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or in line of fire with the door. Students' chair and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. **Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive.** The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person **MUST** raise his/her hands above his/her head.

**Earthquake:**

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

**Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:**

We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and email for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures. You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll over. You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to Saluki Net, go to my records tab, under SIUC Personal Records, click on View My SIUC Student Records, Under Main Menu click on Personal Information, click on View and Update Addresses and Phones, in the middle of the page click [Update Addresses and Phones], under phones click Primary: This will take you to Update Addresses and Phones – Update/Insert, under primary phone number for this address put in your cell phone and submit. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

**CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:**

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.

**Women's Self Defense Classes** are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information contact Officer Mary Stark marys@dps.siu.edu.