RTD 370 Television News – Fall 2015
11am – 12: Mondays and Wednesdays – Comm 9e
Instructor: Joey Helleny Office: Comm 1050b
Mobile: 618-534-1667 Office: 618-453-6903

Office Hours: 2 – 4 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
2 – 3 pm Mondays and Wednesdays (If I’m not in 1050b at these times, check the RREE Newsroom) Other times by appointment I’m usually in my office every day so feel free to stop by or call to see if I’m there.

Email: jhelleny@siu.edu Please put RTD 370 in the subject line of emails you send me about this class.

Course Objectives:

- Student will learn the art of news videography, including composition and proper exposure.
- Student will be able to demonstrate the best practices of using video equipment, including cameras, tripod, microphones, and lighting kits.
- Student will learn the basics of non-linear editing using Final Cut Pro.
- Student will learn storytelling techniques.
- Student can demonstrate integrating all of these skills through production of VOs, VOSOTs, and packages.

Text
Aim For the Heart by Al Tompkins; CQ Press ISBN 978-1-60871-674-6

Required Equipment

- External Hard Drive
- A set of earbuds or headphones.
- SDHC card (class 10) at least 16GB
- SDHC card reader
- Earbuds or headphones

Attendance:
Participation in class is a major part of the learning experience. Four absences will be allowed without any penalty. Beginning with the fifth absence, your grade will be lowered one full letter grade. Each additional two absences will result in another letter grade reduction. If you are covering a legitimate news story for WSIU-FM or RREE additional absences may be allowed if prior arrangements are made with the instructor. If you have other circumstances that require you to miss class, we may be able to make arrangements provided you notify the instructor prior to class.
No late entry to class. Once the door is closed, you are not allowed in. The only exceptions would be with prior permission from the instructor.

Cell Phone Policy: When you enter the classroom your cell phones should be turned to silent and stored in your backpack, purse, or pocket. Calls or texting are not allowed during class.

The following components will make up your grade:
Video Assignments 30 percent
River Region shift 10 percent
Current Events, TV Business, and textbook quizzes 15 percent
Midterm 10 percent
Final Exam 10 percent
Final package 15
Class Participation 10 percent

The following extra credit opportunities are available:
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and Global Media Research Center Lectures are always worth extra credit. Make sure you fill out a class card at the event. Some SINBA events will also count as extra credit. Most events are worth 5-10 points, up to a maximum of 50.

Video Assignments (30 percent)
Throughout the semester you will be assigned (sometimes with a partner) to shoot, report, and edit news stories (or elements of stories). You will be graded on how well you follow instructions, how you adapt to unforeseen problems, technical quality of the video/audio, composition, interviewing skills, storytelling techniques, editing skills, and timeliness. See grading rubric.

River Region Shift (10 percent)
You are expected to work at least one 3 hour shift every week in the River Region newsroom. Your duties will generally be to shoot VOSOTS depend on your abilities and prior experience, but you'll also have the opportunity to learn from more experienced students in field reporting, editing, and other areas. You'll need to have your time card signed every week by the News Director, Faculty Advisor, or Executive Producer.

Current Events, TV Business, and Textbook Quizzes (15 percent)
A journalist must be aware of what is going on in the world around him/her. If you’re not in the habit of reading at least two newspapers every day and listening/watching/surfing to other news sources as well…it's time you got in the habit.
There will be frequent current events quizzes. They will not be particularly difficult or detailed, but simply designed to measure whether you are keeping abreast of current news in Southern Illinois, the nation, and the world.
The quizzes may also include questions about current issues in the television news business. You should subscribe to and regularly read the following:
- TV Spy: http://www.mediabistro.com/tvspy/
- Poynter Online: http://www.facebook.com/Poynter
- NewsLab: http://www.facebook.com/NewsLab

Textbook quizzes will be based on the reading assignments.

Midterm (10 percent)
Final Exam (10 percent)
May include multiple choice, short answer, and desktop editing exercises.

Final Package (15 percent)

Class Participation (10 percent)
Participation in class discussions will be evaluated here. The instructor also reserves the right to use this portion of the grade to reward overall reliability, willingness to learn, compliance with deadlines, extraordinary improvement, and special circumstances.

Tentative Schedule
- Week 1-3: Basic videography; Final Cut Pro review
- Week 4: Audio for video
- Weeks 5-6: VOs and VOSOTs
- Weeks 7-8: Lighting
- Week 9: Standups
- Weeks 10-11: Advanced Storytelling; Packages
- Weeks 12: More FCP tricks
- Weeks 13-15: Fine tuning

December 18, 10:15 am Final Exam

Important Reminders:
If you remain enrolled in the class, you agree to the terms of the syllabus. The syllabus, however, is just a general plan and may be revised as the semester progresses. In particular, the class schedule of topics is likely to change as guest speakers become available and current events drive topical discussions.

Equipment Guidelines:
Field cameras and other equipment will be available for you to check out from the RTD Department Equipment Room. If you are doing an assignment as part of your River Region duties, equipment should be checked out from the assignment desk there. You are responsible for the care and safe keeping of this equipment. This is expensive stuff. Don't leave it unattended anywhere, even in your locked car. Report any malfunctions to the Equipment Room attendant or RREE staff.
Building Emergency Response Protocols for Syllabus:

University’s Emergency Procedure Clause:

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, Department of Public Safety’s website 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:**

During the spring semester we have a **Storm Drill.**

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 emails 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.