# INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL STORYTELLING

# UNC-Chapel Hill Hussman School of Journalism and Media----MEJO 121 Spring 2021

Welcome to this introductory media technology skills class at the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media. Our simple goals are to introduce you to some of the tools and skills needed to engage in multimedia storytelling in online environments. We aim to demystify the technical aspects of audiovisual information packaging by engaging in basic hands-on video and web exercises.

However, what distinguishes this class from a skills-only course is its focus on storytelling. We ultimately intend to provide familiarity with the tools and an understanding of how to develop a narrative story with all these tools. These are the skill sets needed for various professions in media and journalism.

### Classroom and meeting time: MUST ACCESS with UNC email

Zoom Meetings Tuesday/Thursday. MEJO 121.005 9:30am-10:45am

Join Zoom Meeting

https://unc.zoom.us/j/96094131641

Meeting ID: 960 9413 1641

Passcode: 664371

#### Instructor

**Heather Stevenson** 

hsteven@email.unc.edu

Office Hours: Before or After Class on T/R

Office Hours are for questions and when I am available. I will answer emails during the week until 8pm. But if you email me on Friday after 6pm, you will most likely not hear back from me until Monday morning.

# **Required Supplies**

There are no textbooks for this course, but there are required purchases. Be aware that financial aid funds can be used for these items. If you believe you will have a challenge with these purchases, please contact Stephanie Willen Brown (<a href="mailto:swbrown@unc.edu">swbrown@unc.edu</a>), the director of the Hussman School's Park Library.

1 | MEJO 121 | Introduction to Digital Storytelling



### **Smartphone:**

For your video assignments, you will record with your smartphone. NOTE: If you will be using an iPhone 7 or higher, you also need a 3.5mm headphone jack adapter (usually included with your iPhone purchase and pictures left) to be able to use the lavalier microphone.



**FiLMiCPro app**: We require the purchase of the FiLMic the app. FiLMic Pro that provides the features of professional video cameras for iPhone and Android. The cost of this app is \$14.99. More information here: <a href="https://www.filmicpro.com/">https://www.filmicpro.com/</a>

#### Headphones:

Must have a standard mini jack (1/8"). Any wired (non-Bluetooth / not wireless) headphones you might use with your phone will work. HEADPHONES WITH A MIC WILL NOT WORK WITH THE PHONE APP!!!

#### Wired Lavalier microphone (with headphone monitoring):

A lavalier will be needed for the best audio quality. You will need to purchase a lavalier microphone with headphone monitoring (pictured below). Here is the link to an option on Amazon: <u>Lavalier Microphone</u>

#### **Tripod with smartphone mount:**

You will need to purchase a tripod and mount for your phone. THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR PHONE! Here is an example. Please just make sure the tripod and mount are compatible with your smartphone.



### Domain name & Hosting Space:

You will need to purchase these products for the Web portion of this class for approximately \$20-\$30 for your first year. More details will be provided in class. You should not purchase these items until directed. NOTE: If you already have these products, you may reuse them for class. Please inform the

2 | MEJO 121 | Introduction to Digital Storytelling

instructor if this is the case. Also note that it is your responsibility to cancel this service once the course is complete.

### **Equipment Guidelines:**

For more information and tutorials related to the 121-class equipment, please see these tutorials on the Park Library website: <a href="https://guides.lib.unc.edu/mejo-equipment-room/videos">https://guides.lib.unc.edu/mejo-equipment-room/videos</a>. PLEASE NOTE DUE TO COVID-19 YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHECKOUT EQUIPMENT THIS SEMESTER.

## **Recommended Supplies**

#### USB external hard drive / flash drive

**Specs:** Minimum 64GB flash drive, must be USB 3.0 for fastest file transfer speeds. *Recommended* to invest in a larger external hard drive to backup all files for this course and others. You need one of the following.

Click here for a link to a recommended flash drive (64GB).

Click here for a link to a recommended flash drive (128GB).

Click here for a link to a recommended external hard drive (2TB).

### **Required Digital Access**

#### LinkedIn Learning:

Follow the instructions here to access Linkedin.com with your ONYEN. https://software.sites.unc.edu/linkedin/

#### Adobe Premiere

Follow the instructions here to create an Adobe ID and install the required software for free: <a href="http://software.sites.unc.edu/software/adobe-creative-cloud/">http://software.sites.unc.edu/software/adobe-creative-cloud/</a>. You can download some of the required software to your own laptops for the projects required in this course. You may find that Adobe Premiere runs slowly on your laptop, depending on its hardware. To see if your computer can run Premiere efficiently check your stats with Adobe Premiere Pro System Requirements.

#### YouTube or Vimeo account

You must use or create an account to publish your videos for this course. A YouTube account is included with any Gmail account, and there is no storage limit on YouTube accounts. A Vimeo account is free to create, but free accounts have restrictions on the total GB you can upload each week. Publishing your work on YouTube is easy and free, but Vimeo can have a more professional reputation.

# **Course Goals and Accreditation**

The School of Media and Journalism accrediting body outlines several values you should be aware of and competencies you should be able to demonstrate by the time you graduate from our program. Learn more about them here: ACEIMC Professional Values and Competencies.

No single course could possibly give you these values and competencies, but collectively, our classes are designed to build your abilities in each of these areas. In this class, we will address a number of the values and competencies, with special emphasis on the "Professional values and competencies" listed below:

- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- Think critically, creatively and independently.
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professionals in which they work.

# **Attendance/Tardiness Policy**

While we will be doing a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning your attendance is still mandatory for class. As this course is project-based and cumulative in its delivery of technical information, it is important to attend each scheduled course day to receive new information and to practice new skills. All new content has been recorded and can be found in Sakai. It is your job to stay on top of the content and follow the syllabus. It is not the instructor's responsibility to follow up with or meet with a student to catch them up. Treat this class as you would a future job: Communication is key. In this online platform, communication = flexibility.

Please be advised you are expected to be in class on time when we meet. If you need to leave early or arrive late -for whatever reason—it needs to be cleared with the professor ahead of time.

Attendance and tardiness questions need to be dealt with at the time of the occurrence and not at the end of the semester. It is your responsibility to make your professor aware of an extenuating circumstance when it arises.

# Late Assignments

Accepting late assignments is unfair to the students who have sacrificed to turn their work in on time. An automatic 10 percent deduction will be applied to each assignment turned in after the time it is due, provided the assignment is turned in on the same day it is due. An additional 10% deduction will be applied for each subsequent 24 hours that pass after the due date/time (i.e., 10 percent is taken off for each day). Deadlines will be posted on each assignment and in Sakai.

# **Independent Online Research**

To teach you the necessary software tools to create your stories, this course will combine in-class demonstrations with online tutorials and videos. As beginners, it is inevitable that questions and technical problems will arise as you work with these tools. It is also not possible to cover every detail of a tool through in-class demo or assigned videos. The assignments will require you to learn how to learn new things independently, outside of direct instruction. While your instructor is always available to answer your questions, and clarify any topic, this course will challenge you to troubleshoot your

4 | MEJO 121 | Introduction to Digital Storytelling

technical problems and figure out answers to your questions through independent online research. Before asking your question a technical or software-related question like "how do I..." or " ... isn't working", it is expected that you will research your question online. Invest some time looking at manuals, forums and documentation sites to see if someone else has addressed your question or problem before. If you have conducted independent research online and still can't find your answer, reach out to your instructor through email, in class, or during office hours. In addition to asking your question, share what you learned during your research, a description of your problem, and any relevant screenshots.

### **Growth Mindset**

As mentioned above this class will stretch you. You are challenged to enjoy the learning process and expect to run into challenges along the way. See these issues as ways to learn and explore. Please watch the following TED talk to further understand the Growth Mindset. Carol Dweck "The Power of Believing that you can improve."

### **Expectations:**

As mentioned above it is your responsibility to stay on top of your content in Sakai. It is expected that you will spend about 1.5-2 hours a day on content for this course which includes weekly readings, video lectures and assignments. You will not be able to wait until the end of the week and do a week's worth of work in one day. As you will see in the course schedule some weeks are more work heavy than others. It is also not recommended that you work far ahead of the current schedule. Content builds on itself week to week and feedback on projects will be imperative to your success on future assignments. Finally, it is expected that you will check your email daily and log into Sakai at least 5 days a week to stay on top of your content.

# Grading

Work is graded according to the highest professional standards. Grades in percentages are:

- A = 93-100%
- A = 90 92%
- B+ = 87-89%.
- B = 83-86%
- B- = 80-82%

- C + = 77 79%
- C = 73-76%

- C- = 70-72%,
  D = 60-69%,
  F = 59% or below

Below is a guideline for how grades are described within this course:

- A: nearly perfect in execution, quality of work is exceptional
- A-: work is impressive in quality, very few problems in any area
- B+: very good performance, did more than required, might struggle in one area only
- B: solid effort, met all requirements, solid application of skill
- B-: needs a bit more polish, pretty good handle on things overall
- C+: good in one area of work, but consistent problems with another area
- C: followed instructions, seems to understand basics but did the minimum to pass
- C-: has glimpses of potential in a limited range
- D: did not demonstrate an understanding of the basics but tried
- F: did not demonstrate effort or understanding of basics, incomplete

**Rounding Grades:** Final grades will only be rounded up if the grade is a .9. For example, an 84.9 would round up to an 85, but an 84.8 would not be rounded up.

**Grading Standards:** The above descriptions are use as outlines for all grades. To receive an A in this class you will need to go above and beyond the assignment's minimum requirements, and it will involve planning and thought. You will need to spend time outside of class practicing your skills. Questions or issues with assignments should be posed ASAP ---do not wait until the end of the semester.

## **Grading Criteria**

In-class participation (attendance, communication, homework assignments (see description below)		
Video course work (includes exercises, quizzes, and video project)  • MOS—15%  • Interview—15%  • Final Edited Video—20%		
Web/Design course work (includes exercises, quizzes and portfolio project)  • Graphics Assignment—5%  • Static web page5%  • WordPress Portfolio— 15%		
Final project (includes final web page design and story/package integration)		

In-class participation is your contribution within the scope of your group, participation in our Zoom meetings including arriving on time, asking questions, offering insights during class discussions, sharing feedback with peers, and general engagement with the daily material. How do you handle your yourself and communication with the instructor? And your completion of homework assignments. The quality of your participation will be assigned a letter grade based on the guidelines above at the end of the course. You may check in with your instructor at any time during the course for individual feedback about the quality of your participation.

Exercises are assigned to familiarize you with skills needed to complete the projects and are graded on completion and execution quality. Engagement with the exercises will prepare you to achieve better work on your projects.

The video & web projects are assigned for you to demonstrate a mastery of the skills and storytelling techniques learned in class and with the exercises.

The final project is an integrated package delivered via text, design and video and housed on your portfolio website. The package must contain integrated elements (story text, video and any additional elements you may choose).

# **Email Policy**

Email is form of communication that we use as a learning tool. Anything in email is considered just as important as what was shared in class. It is your responsibility to check your email daily to receive instruction and timely information from your professor. Not seeing an email is no excuse. I will send out a weekly email usually on Sundays that covers what to expect during the week ahead. Reaching me by email is the easiest. I

will usually respond same day depending on when you email. Do not expect immediate responses to emails after 8pm on weeknights or after 6pm on Friday and over the weekend.

### **Honor Code**

It is expected that each student in this class will conduct him/herself within the guidelines of the Honor System (http://honor.unc.edu). All academic work should be done with the high level of honesty and integrity that this University demands. If you have any questions about your responsibility or your instructor's responsibility as a faculty member under the Honor Code, please feel able to see the course instructor, speak with the senior associate dean of undergraduate studies in this school, and/or speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

# **Seeking Help**

If you need individual assistance, it is your responsibility to meet with the instructor. If you are serious about wanting to improve your performance in the course, the time to seek help is as soon as you are aware of the problem, whether the problem is difficulty with course material, a disability, or an illness. Please feel able to contact the course instructor as soon as you perceive any warning signs of things that might adversely affect your class performance or final grade.

### **Diversity**

The University's policy on Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination is outlined in the 2011–2012 <u>Undergraduate Bulletin</u>. UNC is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

In this course, you are encouraged to represent diverse populations, diverse viewpoints, and diversity of perspective in your own work. You are also asked to be sensitive to the various backgrounds, perspectives, origins, and situations represented by the students in the course, the students, faculty, and staff at this university, and the residents of this state.

# **Special Needs**

The University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) Office. In the first instance please visit their website at <a href="http://accessibility.unc.edu">http://accessibility.unc.edu</a>, call the office at 919–962–8300, or email <a href="accessibility@unc.edu">accessibility@unc.edu</a>. A student is welcomed to initiate the registration process at any time. However, the process can take time. ARS is particularly busy in the run–up to Finals and during Finals. Students submitting Self–ID forms at that time are unlikely to have accommodations set until the following semester.

Please contact ARS as early in the semester as possible.

# **Final Project Planning**

This class will culminate with a final digital story web page that includes a video you create in class with an original story and some graphic elements of design. Your story can be on any topic you like, but it needs to be a new idea. This topic will require outside research and a lot of planning. Your professor will offer guidance this semester, but it is your responsibility to plan your semester. Waiting until the last minute to plan your story will be detrimental to your grade.

# Tentative Course Schedule: (subject to change)

Please watch the videos lectures and complete readings prior to our class meeting for the day. In class you will come with the prepared lecture reflection/assignment to discuss. Class meetings will be for questions, review of content and group work to enforce ideas discussed in lecture. Assignments are to be worked on after class and due in Sakai by the stated deadline. Please follow along with the "Weekly Lessons" listed in Sakai. It has all the links and documents you need for the week.

Week	Date	Topic
		。 Watch <u>Growth Mindset</u>
		Assignments: Semester Story Spreadsheet
	1/21	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Digital Storytelling Parts 1 & 2 (20 mins) Found in Sakai Read: Picking Right Medium for your story Reading  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss topic for semester, examples of projects, Digital Plot Diagram
		Small Groups)  Assignments: Complete Semester Story Idea Spreadsheet Sign Online Contract in Assignments in Sakai
Week 2	1/26	Semester Story Idea Spreadsheet Due by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Composition Rule of Thirds (35 mins)  Watch: Getting an Adobe ID (less than minute)  Watch Logging In To Adobe (less than minute)

		Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss: Composition, Logging Shot Exercise In Class (Group Share MS, CU, ECU of object)  Assignments: Online Student Contract Due 1/28 11:59pm Research Semester Story
	1/28	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Intro Filmic Pro (25 mins) Watch: How to upload video to Premiere (5 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss: FilMic Pro App, Small Groups: Come to class with Interesting shot of something to share)  Assignments:
Week 3	2/2	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Sequencing Part 1 & 2 (23 mins)  Watch: Filmic Pro Tutorials( Scroll down to find: Jumpstart Guide—first 10 mins, V6 Best Features) (15 mins)  Read: Filmic Pro Users Guide  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Sequencing Assignment, Small Group Discussion)  Assignments: Sequencing Assignment
	2/4	Sequencing Assignment Due in Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Intro to Editing (17 mins) Watch: Intro to Premiere Pro (25 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Premiere Check in, Watch 3 over 1, Small Group: Sequencing)  Assignments: Finish Sequence Edits and Upload

Week 4	2/9	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Audio Interviewing (25 mins) Watch: Camera Stabilization (4 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Camera Assignment, Small Group Interview Assessment)  Assignments: Camera Assignment Homework Due in Sakai TOMORROW 2/10 @ 11:59pm
	2/11	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Lighting 101 (20mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Lighting,)  Assignments: Practice Interview Set up, Check Microphone, Address issues
	2/16	Wellness Day No Class
Week 5	2/18	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Interview Techniques (23 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Story Lines, Small Group: Review Practice from Lecture)  Assignments: Plan MOS Shoot
Week 6	2/23	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Premiere Audio Editing (22 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Rack Focus, Audio Editing, Small Group MOS Planning)  Assignments: Plan and Shoot MOS
	2/25	MOS Shots Due By Start of Class Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Premiere Polish (27 mins) Be ready to edit in class

		Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Example of MOS, Small Group Editing)  Assignments: Work on MOS Assignment
Week 7	3/2	MOS Edit Due in Sakai by 11:59pm 3/2 Checklist Before Class Meeting:     Finish MOS Edit for group critique  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Successful MOS, Editing questions, Small Group: MOS Critique)  Assignments: Submit MOS by midnight in Sakai and reflection Questions
	3/4	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Prepare List of Questions for your Interview Assignment (Review Interview Techniques Lecture if needed)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discussion Interview Focus: Small Group Questions interview plan, teeing up shots)  Assignments: Plan and Shoot Interview
Week 8	3/9	Digital Story Outline Due by 11:59pm in Sakai 3/10  Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Digital Story Outline (7 mins) Finalized plan for Interview questions  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Successful Story, Questions on Outline,)  Assignments: Interview Assignment shoot/edit Due 3/16
	3/11/12	Wellness Day No Class
Week 9	3/16	Interview Assignment Due in Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Shot list for B-roll for your final story

	Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time)
	(Web story how it all connects, Small Group: Interview Reflection B-roll plan)
	Assignments:
3/18	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Research website you like, reflect on why Come to class with B-roll shots list, plan of when to shoot
	Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Successful Stories, Video B-roll reflection, Small Group Reflection)
	Assignments: Plans to shoot b-roll. Final Edited Video Due in Sakai 3/28
3/23	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: How the Web Works (12 mins)  Set Up GoDaddy Account (GoDaddy PowerPoint)
	Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Transition to web, GoDaddy questions, Small Group: Domains plans for final web story)
	Assignments: Make sure Domain works—post in Sakai Assignments by 11:59pm Work on Content Brand Planning Sheet
3/25	Content Brand Planning Sheet Due in Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Web Design Basics Part 1 & 2 (25 mins)  Watch: Content Brand Planning (5 mins)  Come prepped to review Final Edited Video DUE 3/28
	Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Web Design show examples, Small Group Review Final Edited Video
	Assignments: Finish and submit Content Brand planning sheet Final Edited Video Due 3/28 in Sakai by 11:59pm
	3/23

	-	
Week 11	3/30	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: Graphic Lecture( 11 mins) Read: 12 Infographic Tips  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Successful Graphics, Small Group Compare Graphics Exercise)  Assignments: Work on Graphic Assignment Due by start of class 4/1
	4/1	Graphic Assignment Due in Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Come with Graphic assignment ready for group critique Read: How to Install Atom on your Computer  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Successful Graphic assignments, Small group critiques)  Assignments: Finish and submit Graphic Assignment Install Atom on Computer
Week 12	4/6	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Read: Basics of Atom and HTML Basics Watch: HTML Lectures Parts 1-4 (62 mins) Complete the HTML In Class assignment with lecture  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss HTML, Final Semester Story Small Groups Design and Content)  Assignments: Finish HTML/CSS in class assignment
	4/8	HTML/CSS in class practice upload to Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Read: How CSS Works Watch: CSS Lectures Parts 1-5 (70 mins) Finish CSS in class portion  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss HTML/CSS assignment, Uploading to GoDaddy)  Assignments:

		Upload HTML/CSS to GoDaddy and share link with me in Sakai Assignments Work on Static webpage
Week 13	Week 13  Static Webpage Due in Sakai by 11:59pm Checklist Before Class Meeting: Watch: Installing WordPress on GoDaddy Site (8  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Ti (Discuss Successful Static Webpages, Small Group Re Page Example")  Assignments: Submit Static Webpage to Sakai	
	4/15	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: WordPress 5 Essentials Training Chaps 3 and 5  Watch: WordPress Part 1 and 2 ( 33 mins)  Watch: WordPress Site Map ( 4 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss WP, Wireframing, Small Group Scavenger Hunt)  Assignments: WordPress Scavenger Hunt Finish
Week 14	4/20	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Watch: WordPress Lectures Part 2 and 3 ( 42 mins)  Watch: Wireframing Your Website (5 mins)  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss successful pages, WP Assignment, Small Group Contact Page Comparison)  Assignments: WordPress Site Map Due in Sakai by 11:59pm tonight
	4/22	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Read/Resources: WordPress Plugins Finding CSS Selectors in WordPress How to Add Custom CSS in WordPress How to add and use WordPress Widget

		Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss WordPress Successes, Class time to work on WP)  Assignments: Work on WordPress Portfolio Site
Week 15	4/27	WordPress Portfolio Assignment due in Sakai by 11:59pm  Checklist Before Class Meeting:
	4/29	Checklist Before Class Meeting:  • Read: How to tell a story with your website  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time) (Discuss Final Semester Story (Exam) Small Group: Run through Semester story plan  Assignments: Work on Final Exam
LAST DAY	5/4	Final Exam due in Sakai by 11:59pm  LAST DAY OF CLASS  Checklist Before Class Meeting:  Come to class with final story done ready for critique  Required Zoom Meeting: (During Scheduled Class Time)  (Discuss successful Final Exams, Small Group final exam reflections)  Assignments:  Finish and submit final exam in Sakai
	5/11	Final Exam MEJO121.005 @ Tuesday, May 11 8am