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## VIDEO JOURNALISM PRACTICUM in Fall 2020 (CM1852)

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| <b>Course Code</b>    | CM1852                                             | <b>Professor(s)</b>     | Jurgen Hecker         |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>  | None                                               | <b>Office Number</b>    |                       |
| <b>Class Schedule</b> | W: 09:00-10:35 in Q-509<br>W: 10:50-12:25 in Q-704 | <b>Office Hours</b>     | Email for appointment |
| <b>Credits</b>        | 2                                                  | <b>Email</b>            | jhecker@aup.edu       |
| <b>Semester</b>       | Fall 2020                                          | <b>Office Tel. Ext.</b> |                       |

## Course Description

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This workshop is designed to immerse AUP students into the world of video journalism in a real-time newsroom and production studio setting. Over the course of the class students will have “hands-on” training in all aspects of video, from planning to filming and editing. The aim of the course is to produce videos at a professional level with the main focus on journalism. Shooting and editing experience is welcome, but not a pre-requisite.

The structure of each class is made up of an academic component and a student media component.

The academic component will be headed by the class professor and focus primarily on video journalism practices, theory and practical training in equipment and software. The student-run news room will be led and coordinated by the Peacock Play’s student producers.

The hierarchy of the classroom resembles that of a newsroom: where students will be answerable to their producers, who will invite and approve student pitches, help students find an angle and offer constructive feedback on student content. The professor and his assistant have an active consulting role in this class segment.

As a workshop that works in tandem with AUP student media (ASM), students will contribute to the “Peacock Play”, ASM’s video journalism platform linked to the student media website where their content contributes to the mix of news pieces, video work, and magazine stories.

### Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND

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ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

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Shoot and edit video to broadcast standard  
Master interview techniques  
Develop story ideas and translate them into visual language  
Script-writing and delivery, off screen and on screen.  
Working to a deadline

## **General Education**

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## **Course Outline**

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**This is a content outline of the course. Please note that it may be updated throughout the semester.**

**Week I – Sept 23**

**Introductions of the team and of the students.**

**Presentation of the syllabus**

**Discussion of class goals and qualification. Introduction to the ASM platform and Peacock Play.**

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## **Introduction to technical resources**

**Sept 30 – last day to drop/add courses online**

## **Week II – Sept 30**

### **Theory Topics:**

- **What is journalism? What is news?**
- **What is video's role in journalism?**
- **How can we use video to tell a story?**
- **Responsibility in video journalism? Ethics?**
- **How to stay on top of the news. How to think about angles and pitching a story**

**Learning Goal: An overview of the basic workflow**

**Planning: Defining an angle - Booking interviews - What b-roll**

**Production: Camera/tripod/microphone/ lights**

**Post-production: Editing, data storing, export**

## **Week III – Oct 7**

### **Theory Topics:**

- **What makes a good journalistic video?**

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- What's a good interview?
  - What makes a good interviewer?

## **Learning Goals:**

### **Basic Camera**

- Aperture
  - Shutter Speed
  - Exposure/ISO
  - Frame Rate
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- Framing
  - Rule of Thirds + 180 Degree Rule
  - Shot Angles + Sizes
  - Sequences

### **Types of Microphones and how to use them.**

- Open vs Closed Questions

### **Week IV – Oct 14**

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### **Theory Topics:**

- **How does a journalist guide and control an interview?**
- **How does a team work together in a shoot/interview?**

### **Learning Goals: Interviewing + Audio**

- **Covering audio recording in detail: Microphones, recorders**
- **Setting up audio for an interview**

### **Week V – Oct 21**

### **Theory Topics:**

- **How to use light in video?**
- **High key/ low key**
- **3-point lighting**
- **lighting in interview**

- **How does editing play with our perceptions of news?**
- **How does an editor think? Where to cut?**

### **Learning Goals: Editing Basics Pt. 1**

- **Review shot angles + sizes and how to build a sequence with them.**

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- **Basic Editing Tools**
  - **Import + Export**

## **Week VI – Oct 28**

### **Theory Topics:**

- **How to structure a journalism video?**
- **How to discuss sensitive topics?**
- **What is Peacock Play doing well and how to improve?**

### **Learning Goals: Editing Basics Pt. 2**

- **Effects + transitions**
- **Adding Graphics**
- **Subtitles + Captions**
- **What font to use?**

### **Learning Goals: Mid-term**

- **Review topics covered so far.**
- **Troubleshooting student questions/problems**

## **Week VII - Nov 4**

### **Midterm exam / review**

## **Week VIII - Fall break, no class**

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**Nov 16 - mid-semester grades due**

**Week IX - Nov 18**

**Theory Topics:**

- **Planned and adjusted according to class needs**

**Learning Goals: Review**

**-Troubleshooting student questions/problems**

**-Review topics covered so far.**

**Week X - Nov 25**

**Theory Topics: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

**Learning Goals: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

**Week XI - Nov 30**

**Theory Topics: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

**Learning Goals: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

**Week XII - Dec 2**

**Theory Topics: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

**Learning Goals: Planned and adjusted to class needs.**

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## **Week XIII - Dec 9, Last Class**

**Review, summary of semester, finalizing videos**

**Dec 12-15 - Reading days**

**December 16, 3 pm, Final exam**

**Jan 4 - all grades due**

## **Textbooks**

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This course doesn't have any textbook.

## **Attendance Policy**

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**This class is a serious creative workshop. Each unexcused absence will lower your course grade by 1/2 grade. Lateness will count against your participation score. Because of the cumulative nature of the workshop, late work is not acceptable.**

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

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Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

## **Grading Policy**

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**The final grade will be made up of:**

**Class participation, class assignments: 30 %**

**Midterm exam: 20 %**

**Peacock Play projects: 50 %**

**The professor and his colleagues will seek to give regular feedback to each student. If students feel that they need more feedback they are encouraged to ask and suggest improvements in communications throughout the semester.**

## **Other**

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**BUY: You will have to buy a portable hard drive to store your work on. (This should be formatted for use on Mac computers).**