

H4990 **Honors: Special Topics**

Community, Media and the Arts 4.0 Credit hours

Classroom: Rm. 202 Tuttleman Building

Meeting Time - 4:10pm-6:00pm Tues-Thurs.

Professor Eugene Martin

Office TT219

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs 2:30-4:00pm and by Appt.

Office tel: 215-204-1926

Eugene@temple.edu

There is a Blackboard site set up with course documents, web links, and staff contact information.

Course Description: The class will develop leadership skills, teach ethics, and offer perspectives into the issues of working with arts organizations and schools via media making experiences in the Philadelphia community. Students this term will work directly with neighborhood teens via placement at The Village of Arts and Humanities (The Village) in North Philadelphia, 11th and Cumberland Streets, over a period of 10 to 11 weeks. Access to the Tech Center for video editing and the Media Education Lab is provided. Works will be screened and guest visits by working filmmakers will be held on campus. An end of semester screening with community groups will also be held.

There are three main areas of learning that we will cover in the course.

Knowledge:

- 1) community service learning as a type of learning
- 2) justice, inequality, discrimination
- 3) the impact of poverty on education and human development
- 4) qualities required for being a community leader and agent of change
- 5) the role of digital arts as a tool for personal and social transformation

Skills:

- 1) composition, framing
- 2) camera skills, digital video shooting, hand held and tripod techniques
- 3) computer editing on Final Cut Pro
- 4) story structure, narrative and documentary storytelling techniques
- 5) visual analysis
- 6) archival research at the Temple Urban Archives
- 7) script writing
- 8) interviewing skills
- 9) lighting
- 10) sound recording

Attitudes/Personal development:

- 1) working collaboratively and developing communication skills

- 2) brainstorming, reflective analysis, problem solving skills
- 3) managing emotional response to the environment
- 4) tolerance for complexity and ambiguity

First Project: Shoot still photos on the theme “community” and edit 50 images in a “story” sequence. Post to a blog site set up for the class.

Second Project: Social Space Video Project. Work in groups of four to create a 5-minute video in the Temple or North Philadelphia community. Film over two weeks, edit the 3rd week. Screen for the teens at The Village.

Third Project: Video Interviews with a community leader. Interview, shoot and edit a 5-minute portrait of community leaders of your choosing. Classmates will serve as crewmembers for each other’s projects. This project will be done in groups of 4.

Final Project:

Larger Group Projects:

“Making of” and a collaborative project with The Village teens in Arts Challenge. This years’ theme is “Digging Deeper”.

Oral history of women in the neighborhood of Fairhill.

Create a binder to use all semester that will be divided into three parts:

The Professor will review each binder at **wks 4,8,12.**

- 1) Journal – a private weekly written account of experiences in the class that only the Professor will read.
- 2) Responses to Readings – a weekly response essay to the readings and screenings. These notes will be shared in class and passages shared out loud and discussed.
- 3) Production Documents – record of storyboards, shot lists, production notes.

Required Readings:

Coles, Robert. (1998) Doing Documentary Work. USA: Oxford University Press.

Berger, John. (1990) Ways of Seeing. USA: Penguin.

Both texts are available in the SAC Bookstore.

Approach to Teaching: My approach is a blend of hand on experiences combined with theoretical studies to examine why and how we make choices as media authors. I have found that field placement offers wonderful and rich experiences, especially in the neighborhoods right near Temple. Screenings of relevant works will be discussed, as well as visits by makers. The weekly seminars will complement the once a week field

placements. This will allow us to reflect on the placement experiences; students will be able to offer peer-to-peer insights, suggestions, and discuss what works and what doesn't. The ideas of teaching leadership skills is at the core of the course, inspired from my students' past experiences as media makers setting out to create original works. Often, the issues that arise have little to do with media. They have much more to do with education, cultural exchange, values, and ways to gain knowledge and insights into how to work with people, especially teens and youth.

Evaluation:

Grading:

Still Photo project	50 pts.
First Video Group Assignment, Social Space (groups of 4)	80 pts.
Second Assignment, Documentary Interview	100 pts.
Journals, 3 reviews @25 pts. each	75 pts.
Reading Response Papers, 3 @25 points each	75 pts.
Final Collaborative Project/Participation	120 pts.

Total **500 pts.**

Calendar:

Week 1 – An introduction to the Temple Neighborhood. Walking Tour to The Village of Arts and Humanities at 11th and Cumberland Sts. Intro to Open Source websites.
Screening of past semester works on DVD.

Week 2 – Assignment: Still photos in the neighborhood. Explore and discuss the notions of the “border” that exists between main campus and the community.
Editing Lab at Tech Center.

Week 3 – Review for first video assignment, Social Space. Review documentary research methods. Video Camera workshop.

Week 4 – Placements commence at The Village of Arts and Humanities.
Workshop script writing with teens at The Village. Journals due, 1st Papers due.

Week 5 – Screen footage from first video assignments, Social Space.
Field Placements

Week 6 - Guest Speaker – El Sawyer, Digital Arts Instructor
Review for 2nd Short video assignment – the Documentary interview
Field Placements

Week 7 – Screening: “Made in LA”, a documentary about undocumented migrant workers in Los Angeles.
Field Placements

Week 8 – Field Trip
Field Placements

Week 9 – Journals and 2nd Paper due.
Field Placements

Week 10 – Screen 2nd video assignments, documentary portraits due.
Field Placements

Week 11 – Guest speaker: Documentary cameraperson.
Field Placements

Week 12 - Field Placements, Journals and 3rd paper due.

Week 13 - Field Placements

Week 14 - Community Screenings at Site Placements. Screen final projects.

Important Contact Info:

The Village of Arts and Humanities
2544 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19133

Contact: El Sawyer
Community Arts Manger
Village Of Arts and Humanities
215-225-7830
el@villagearts.org

Disability Statement: Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215- 204-1280 in 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities:

Policy (#03.70.02): Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has a policy on Student and Faculty and Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy #03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: <http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy no=03.70.02>.