# BC 601 BC Capstone 2012

McGill Library- ROB

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### **Course Description**

The BC Capstone is divided into two consecutive semester courses (2 hours each) running fall and spring. The whole of capstone requires the student to prepare a broadcast portfolio which includes a senior non-fiction, digital video project of professional quality. Students will present the completed projects in the fall semester to department majors, faculty, broadcast professionals and the campus community. In addition, the class will explore a variety of topics and discuss current

broadcast issues. Prerequisites: completion of the departmental comprehensive exam, BC 102, BC 111, BC 251 and at least three semester of BC 120.

### **Course Outcomes**

Students will demonstrate the ability to research, develop and produce a 10 to 15 minute documentary for the capstone project. BC 601 focuses on the research, development and pre-production of the project. Each student will:

- advance, utilize and polish professional media skills involving writing, audio and video production
- Reflect, explore and engage in Westminster's service learning mission
- research elements for a short-format digital documentary
- o plan and organize the a documentary

- o draft formal documents for the documentary
- develop an critical assessment of documentaries
- research and secure professionals for feedback and assessment for the documentary
- convince the instructor, acting in the role as executive producer, and others to green light the production



# ADVISORY: The documentary project work requirements and demands outside of class are substantial.

Students are expected to have basic professional skills from:

- Broadcast Writing
- Audio Production
- Video Production
- At least three semesters of BC 120

The Department requires each student to demonstrate through practical exams that they have the skills and ability to complete the documentary project for capstone. Each student must pass the comprehensive practical skills exams for writing, audio production and video production by February 17. If you do not pass the practical exams, you must withdraw from BC 601 immediately and wait to register for it in the spring of 2011.

**Service-Learning** (from the Drinko Center)- All non-fiction digital capstone projects must meet the Westminster College service learning mission.

What is Service-Learning? Service-learning is an educational method in which the service is integrated into the course curriculum and requires that the students reflect on their service activity. Service-Learning incorporates the mission of the College in the classroom allowing students to grasp "real-life" experiences in their field of study, while meeting community needs through service.

Every semester new and exciting courses are offered at Westminster incorporating a service-learning component into the curriculum. Many Westminster faculty include service-learning components. A good start is with the people designed as a Service-Learning Faculty Fellow by clicking on the SLFF link on the left.

#### Benefits of Service-Learning

- Real-world experience helps with career exploration, skill-building, resume-building and networking
- Involvement with important concerns helps students understand issues, builds their passions, and gives them skills
- Applying abstract concepts or theories to real situations helps students understand course concepts and ask valuable questions
- Improves self-efficacy
- Students become more civically engaged.

The BC 201 Workshop (SPRING 2012) Shooting & conducting better interviews with Jonathan Joy.

I strongly recommend you take this workshop to strengthen your ability to set up, frame and light interviews as well as conduct them. Many of you have fundamental skills that need polished when it comes to situating interview subjects, framing the shot and lighting the scene. This workshop will give you additional time and experience working on improving those skills.

**Required Reading-** Shut Up & Shoot by Anthony Q. Artis (2008), Focal Press. ISBN 978-0-240-80935-9 Chapter 1- Preproduction, Chapter 2-Location, Location, Location. Chapter 7—Interview Prep, Chapter 8- Conducting Interviews. Documentaries ...and how to make them by Andy Glynne (2008) Creative Essentials. ISBN 978190408800

**Grading Criteria** 

| AVS & HD Camera Training  | 5 points     |
|---|--------------|
| Developing an idea  | 5 points     |
| Research- Starting at the library- workshop                     | 5 points     |
| Follow up research @ the library- w orkshop 2                   | 5 points     |
| Report on research  | 5 points     |
| Abstract for documentary & w orking title                       | 5 points     |
| Identifying archive materials, artifacts, photos & other visual | 5            |
| materials for project   |              |
| Treatment for documentary                                       | 10           |
| Topic Consultant Bio & Agreement                                | 5            |
| Production Consultant Bio & Agreement                           | 5            |
| Film Festival or Peer Review Research & Planning                | 5            |
| Research/Literature Review                                      | 20           |
| Production timeline/calendar                                    | 5            |
| Conclusion/Findings Summary                                     | 5            |
| The Documentary Poster Presentation @ URAC                      | 50 Points    |
| <u>Wednesday, 4/28/11</u>                                       |              |
| Covering URAC- The mini-doc project                             | 25 Points    |
| 4/28/11—Must be posted online by 4/30/11                        |              |
| The Documentary Pitch-  | 50 Points    |
| Thursday 5/10/12- 8:00 AM-10:30 AM                              |              |
| The final proposal  | 25           |
| Final Grade   | 200 POSSIBLE |

Cheating will not be tolerated! Students in this course are expected to be familiar with Westminster's academic integrity policies. All your work must be genuine, original and properly credited. Students who engage in academic dishonesty (fabrication/cheating/plagiarism/etc.) are subject to Westminster's disciplinary penalties in addition to automatically failing this course. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- fabricating or falsifying interviews, video, audio, air checks, live reports, etc.
- misrepresentation of audio, video or printed materials
- failure to credit cast and crew for work and assistance of audio and video projects
- failure to cite/credit original sources in written works or in presentations
- plagiarism
- violating copyright
- providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on assignments and deadlines
- any act designed to give an unfair advantage to any student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Communication with the Instructor- E-mail is a requirement for this class. You must read my e-mails regularly and respond accordingly. This is how I communicate with you and the preferred method you will use during the semester to communicate with me. Your Westminster account will serve you well. However, if you wish to use an alternate Yahoo Mail, G-mail or other account, please notify me immediately in order for me to adjust my e-mail address book.

Professionalism & Participation Required- No Exceptions- You attendance in class is required. You must complete reading and writing assignments on time. Professionalism includes the care, maintenance and proper use of equipment. Therefore professionalism and participation are the minimum standards for everything you do in the course.

To meet the standard of professionalism and participation in this class, you must attend class regularly. Missing more than two classes will cost you your attendance grade. Excessive tardiness and missed deadlines will also cost you your class attendance grade. You must meet all requirements for assignments, deadlines and other class projects. Failure to do so will result in a final grade for the class of no greater than C-.

Addressing Accessibility- Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Corey Shaw, Director of Disability Resources, by the second class period. Mr. Shaw is located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: shawci@westminster.edu

## How can a qualifying exam package fail? By failing to meet best practices. Here is a list of violations of best practices that will automatically fail you exam.

- Unacceptable audio levels. This includes distorted audio or audio in which nat sound or music overpower or distort the levels, or if levels are too low, dirty audio edits, etc. Interviews must be properly recorded with a stick or lav mic.
- Subjects visibly holding microphones for themselves
- Shaky, unusable video, unacceptable framing of interviews or unnecessary zooms or pans
- Blue or orange video indicating improper white-balance or filter choice
- Lighting Sins
- Underexposed shots (video levels are too dark)

- Overexposed shots (video levels are too bright)
- shooting into windows, bright or white skies, backgrounds that are brighter than subjects
- No Pad at the beginning or end (proper pad is :02 at the beginning & end) or missing countdown
- Continuity problems or unjustifiable jump cuts (breaking in continuity of action, violation of the 180 degree rule, etc.)
- Flash Frame(s) and/or other obvious continuity flaws
- Missing anchor intro & correct video file labeling protocol
- Story makes no sense or lacks any focus