

COMH 212T: • SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNICATION • 2019

<u>January 8-21</u>	<u>January 24-March 7</u>
<i>Chiang Mai, Thailand</i> +Eco Lodge & Elephant Sanctuary	<i>University of Tampa</i> Thursdays 6-9:50pm, CB 130



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COURSE OVERVIEW

The travel portion of this honors course takes students abroad to shoot short documentary films about local changemakers working on social justice issues in their community. The class then returns to UT to complete post-production and premiere their films at an Honors Symposium. Previous sections of the course have traveled to Ecuador in 2014 and Morocco in 2016. The current version will take students to Chiang Mai, Thailand in January of 2019. While in-country, student production teams will work under the careful guidance of Dr. Boulton, Dr. DeMil, and an Actuality Media production manager as they conduct background research, write an outline, create a shot list, conduct interviews, and capture b-roll footage on location. The changemakers we will be working with include: 1) Our Choice Thailand, which provides HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention education, training, outreach activities, and direct care to immigrants, women, and sexual minorities; 2) Baan Dek Foundation, which works directly within migrant construction worker camps to help vulnerable children access safe spaces, avoid harm and exploitation, and better prepare for school; and 3) Sop Moei Arts, which preserves Pwo Karen culture and artisanal traditions by expanding markets and building sustainable careers for Pwo Karen weavers and basketmakers.

In addition to each production team's engagement with their assigned changemaker, students will have further opportunities to deepen their cross-cultural understanding through an overnight excursion to the Chai Lai Orchid Eco Lodge Elephant Sanctuary. Located deep in the jungle of North Thailand, Chai Lai Orchid not only offers hiking to hill tribe villages, bamboo raft rides along the Mae Wang river, and ethical interactions with elephants, but also directs 100% of its proceeds to fund the Daughters Rising, a non-profit dedicated to empowering young mothers and at-risk girls. Through language lessons, computer classes, seminars on women's rights and health, and paying Chai Lai Orchid's trainees living wages, Daughters Rising helps local Burmese refugee women escape human trafficking.

There are no language or production prerequisites for this course. If not used for student's major, can fulfill the Social Science (SS) and Non-Western and International/Global Awareness (NW/IG) components of their Baccalaureate Experience Requirements.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, all students should be able to demonstrate:

- 1) improved documentary film production skills
- 2) deepened cross-cultural understanding
- 3) greater understanding of social entrepreneurship and media advocacy techniques

REQUIRED TEXT

There's no required text for this course; various handouts and readings may be distributed as needed.

ASSIGNMENTS	%	GRADING	SCALE
Photo Storytelling Exercise	5	A 4.0	95-100 Outstanding
Quizzes on Briefings	5	A/B 3.5	89-94 Excellent
Quizzes on Trainings	5	B 3.0	84-88 Very Good
Purpose Statement	5	B/C 2.5	79-83 Good
Story Summary	10	C 2.0	72-78 Average
Story Outline	10	C/D 1.5	68-71 Below Average
Call Sheets	10	D 1.0	60-67 Passing
Visual Assembly + Interview Selects	10	F 0.0	below 60 Failure
Cuts - Rough, Complete, and Final	30		
Objectives Reflection	5		
Participation	5		

EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on a series of exercises, assignments, and worksheets designed to measure both the comprehension of visual storytelling concepts and the acquisition of relevant technical skills:

CREWS

Students will be organized into crews of 4-5 people, with each serving as a Producer, Director, Cinematographer, and Audio Operator. The production process will be highly collaborative, with each person involved in every role and at every stage to some degree.

FILM SUBJECT

Each film will reveal the work of a local changemaker through a character-driven story. Each changemaker will provide a key contact that will be a guide and translator for their crew. Students are required to follow any cultural guidelines or ethical considerations that the changemaker stipulates regarding vulnerable members of their community that may appear on camera. In addition, students will participate in an ethics lecture, which will specify the need to adopt a policy of informed consent for any subjects included in their film. Video and photo releases will be provided to the students, written in the national language. A signed release is required for any individual that is included in the final cut of the documentary. For individuals that speak another language or do not read, the release will be explained in detail by a trusted contact to ensure complete comprehension of release. If any individual expresses any unwillingness to appear on camera or to be included in the final documentary, their wishes will be adhered to.

TRANSPORTATION: Students and faculty are expected to arrive at (and depart to) the local airport as a group on the dates specified. Upon arrival, students and faculty will be met by Actuality Media staff with private ground transportation that will drive them to their lodgings. Private ground transportation will be arranged for departure at the end of the program as well. For production purposes, each crew will be expected to travel by public transportation. Each crew's producer will be given a petty cash budget for which to pay for their crew's transportation throughout the program.

LODGING, MEALS & BASECAMP: Each student will be housed in a secure traveler's guesthouse sharing a room with one or two other students of the same gender. Breakfast and dinner of typical local food will be served as group meals each day at the guesthouse. Dietary restrictions will be considered if possible. Lectures, meetings and editing will take place at a secure apartment within walking distance of student lodgings. Professors Boulton and DeMil will be housed at a private apartment within walking distance of student lodgings and basecamp.

INSTRUCTION: Dr. Boulton and Actuality Media staff will work together to give lectures, conduct workshops and oversee the production of each student project. The production process will include the following documentary concepts and milestones:

- Pre-departure information and preparation materials
- Initial research and introduction to local changemakers
- Instruction and support in documentary storytelling on location
- One computer on location to aid in instruction, footage review and data transfer Local translator (as needed) and changemaker liaison
- Lodging for students at a travelers hostel in single gender dormitories
- Two group meals provided each day (Breakfast and Dinner)
- Group airport transfers for arrival and departure
- Local public transportation for production purposes
- Use of local cell phone per each crew
- Production Kit for each crew including camera, tripod, sound gear, cables and other accessories.
- Legal documentation and releases for production
- Chai Lai Two Day Excursion to Elephant Sanctuary

Costs not covered by Actuality Media: Tuition fees, round trip airfare visa fee, and lunches

COURSE POLICIES

Communication: If you ever have questions or need help, email is the best way to reach me. I am available at cboulton@ut.edu and will respond to all email inquiries within 48 hours. I will hold office hours in case you'd like to meet with me individually. Be sure to check your UT email on a daily basis during the course. Grades will be posted on Blackboard on a weekly basis so that you will always have a recently updated "current grade" that reflects your standing in the course.

Late Work: Deadlines/lateness will be based on time stamps for online posts. Computer failure does not constitute an excuse as the University of Tampa provides multiple computer labs for your use. You are responsible for backing up your work and managing your time to avoid and/or solve technical complications. Except in the case of a documented family emergency or illness, late assignments are not accepted and will result in a zero for that assignment. However, if you know ahead of time that you will be missing a class, you may submit your work early and receive full credit. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate about what you need to know for the next session.

Participation and Attendance: Unless otherwise stated, the use of any form of technology is not permitted in the classroom during our meetings. *This includes laptops.* Additionally, if you are caught texting, surfing the web, using social media, etc., you will be counted absent for the day. In short, messaging (of any kind) during class time will hurt your participation grade. You are expected to be in class on time and stay the entire duration of the period unless otherwise noted or announced. Two tardies and/or early class departures (without prior approval) will equal one absence. If you do miss a day, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for information on any material covered—lectures, assignment announcements, or additional pertinent information will not be repeated. If an absence qualifies as an excused absence, the instructor will accommodate the excused absences in a fair manner. Any work missed must be made up in a timely manner; arranging to replace missed work is the responsibility of the student. You must give notification to your instructors of excused absences in advance as soon as you are aware of it, and documentation is required. Failure to provide notification in advance can result in an unexcused absence. Employment schedules, athletic conditioning and practice schedules, and personal appointments are not excused. Making up work for unexcused absences may be allowed or declined entirely at the discretion of the instructor. Extended illnesses may interfere with the successful completion of courses, and in such cases you may want to withdraw from the course. UT's attendance policy <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/current/catalog/academic-policies-and-procedures/class-attendance-and-participation>.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

You can contact the Student Help Desk via email at <http://StudentHelp@ut.edu> or at (813) 253-6255. The Student Help Desk is located at the front desk of the Jaeb Computer Center. Additional resources can be found in SpartanWeb, Campus Life tab, under the Information Technology link. Tutorials and instructions are also accessible through <http://edtech.ut.edu/>.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require accommodation based on a disability, you must file the appropriate documentation at the beginning of the semester with the Academic Success Center, which is located in North Walker Hall. The Center can also be reached by phone (813) 257-5757 or email: disability.services@ut.edu. Please feel free to discuss this issue with me, in private, if you need more information. Also, if you feel lost, distressed, distraught or out of your depth, know that UT has resources that can provide support. Contact the Health and Wellness Center (813) 253-6250 for more information. You may be far from home, but you are not alone.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

While this course may involve some collaboration, it is expected that assignments will be done individually. Posting work that was done by someone else without proper attribution will be considered plagiarism. Please see the University of Tampa's statement of "Student Rights and Responsibilities" for more information: <http://www.ut.edu/rightsandresponsibilities/>. If you plagiarize any assignment, you will fail that assignment, may fail the course, and will be taken through the judicial review process. You are responsible for knowing and observing the University's Academic Integrity Policy posted at: <http://ut.smartcatalogiq.com/en/current/catalog/Academic-Policies-and-Procedures/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

CLASS SCHEDULE

THAILAND (TRAVEL)

(unless otherwise noted, all Thailand meetings take place at Basecamp)

Tuesday, January 8, 2019:

Depart Tampa for Chiang Mai

Wednesday, January 9, 2019:

Arrive Chiang Mai

Check-in to lodgings

Thursday, January 10, 2019:

Briefings: Changemakers, Purpose, Research, Casting

Meet with Changemakers

Briefings: Ethics and Fair Use, Interviewing, Visual Storytelling

Training: Producers & Scheduling

Friday, January 11, 2019:

QUIZ: Briefings

Photo storytelling exercise

DUE: Purpose Statement

Briefing: Story Summary

Screening: Short documentary exemplars

Training: Directors & Story

Saturday, January 12, 2019:

Training: video cameras and sound recording

Production team research meetings

DUE: Story Summary

Briefing: Story Outline

Training: Cinematographers & Image

Sunday, January 13, 2019:

DUE: Rough Story Outline

Briefings: Call sheet, shot list, interview questions,

Training: Audio Operators & Sound

DUE: Call sheet #1 (crew, locations, schedule, shot list, and questions)

Monday, January 14, 2019:

DUE: Final Story Outline

Shoot Day #1

Review Dailies

DUE: Call sheet #2

Tuesday, January 15, 2019:

Shoot Day #2

Review Dailies

DUE: Call sheet #3

Wednesday, January 16, 2019:

Shoot Day #3

Review Dailies

DUE: Call sheet #pick-ups

Thursday, January 17, 2019:

Shoot Pick-ups

Pack up

Friday, January 18, 2019:

Depart for Chai Lai Orchid Eco Lodge

Saturday, January 19, 2019:

Depart for Chiang Mai
Farewell dinner

Sunday, January 20, 2019:
Depart for Chiang Mai for Tampa

Monday, January 21, 2019:
Arrive Tampa

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA (FIRST 7 WEEKS)

Thursday, January 24, 2019
Training: Post-Production I
Introduce Paper Edit

Thursday, January 31, 2019
Training: Post-Production II
DUE: Paper Edit

Thursday, February 7, 2019
DUE: Visual Assemblies

Thursday, February 14, 2019
DUE: Interview Selects (with subtitles)

Thursday, February 21, 2019
DUE: Rough Cut

Thursday, February 28, 2019
DUE: Complete Cut

Thursday, March 7, 2019
DUE: Final Cut