COURSE PRE-REQUISITE: All students must have previously taken and passed MMC 3104, Writing Strategies. No exceptions will be made (per SCJ policy).

TEXT: No text required

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:
This course is intended to introduce the student to various types of writing for television and Internet/Journalism videos. This will include storytelling for short videos (usually 5 minutes -tops). Class time will be divided between lectures, guest speakers, shooting and video editing workshops.

This course will be devoted to various approaches to video storytelling. We will have guests throughout the semester, even some SCJ alums who are now working fulltime at WPBT2 and other TV stations.

Content: The goal of this class is to help you find what you are passionate about and how to translate that passion into a video project that will inform your community.

Yes, this course is called Writing for TV and there will be many writing exercises as well as writing for your specific videos, but this is not a Broadcast News class. We will discuss and review different TV formats, but the focus of this class is STORYTELLING, not local news programming. Each production in Writing for TV starts with a clearly written proposal and you will be graded on those proposals as well as in-class writing exercises and your video work.

ASSIGNMENTS: Two mini-docs 2:30- 5 minutes in length, plus a written summary/overview for each.
Process: 1) Submit written proposal 2) Submit questions for interviews 3) Shoot story, 4) Transcribe all interviews, 5) Log video 6) Edit FIRST ROUGH CUT, 7) Edit secondrough cut…and so on, until you are satisfied with your work (and grade).

EVALUATION:
Grades on in-class exercises and other projects will be as follows:
- Meets all format requirements: 50%
- Grammar, spelling, etc.: 30%
- Artistic evaluation/visual storytelling: 20%

The overall grade for the course will be based on:
- First Doc: Summary overview: 10%
- First Doc: Video 25%
- Second Doc: Summary overview 15%
- Second Doc: Video 40%
- Class Attendance and in-class writing assignments: 10%

The Grading Scale is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-76</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59</td>
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The instructor reserves the right to make additions, deletions or other changes to this syllabus.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will learn how to interview for TV
Students will learn how to write scripts
Students will learn basic techniques in videography, and the impact of images in storytelling
Students will learn basic documentary format
Students will learn how to use Adobe Premier, audio equipment and various video cameras.

ALL STUDENTS are required to have, by the third week of class (DEADLINE. Wed. Jan. 25) an external hard-drive of at least 250 GB. This drive will be an essential component of your participation in this class, as you will NOT be allowed to save any of your work on the computers in the classroom. Make sure that the drive you buy is compatible for MAC/PC. The cost should be between $69-$99; try BestBuy, Target, or COSTCO.

FIU’s tech help Web site: http://fiuinfo.pbworks.com

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week one: Jan. 9 and 11
Course introduction and overview. The goal of this class is to create professional mini-docs that can enhance your resume and may end up on local public television and/or a professional Web site. If you want to work in groups, we will discuss how that can work. This semester there will be special opportunities to create content around one of our school’s major initiatives: Sea Level Rise. We have had great success with projects on this topic and I’ll review them with you on our first day of class!

We will:
Work with camera equipment, by doing in-class interviews this first week.
Discuss interviewing techniques, the language of images.
View other professional projects completed by SCJ students such as the Web series on Sea Level Rise and the half-hour based on that “South Florida’s Rising Seas: Impact.”
View your professor’s doc (and script): “South Florida’s Rising Seas,” which won Best Short Documentary in the DocMiami International Film Festival 2014.

Week two:
January 16 is Martin Luther King HOLIDAY – No classes
January 18
We will discuss your particular topic interests. Come to class with topic ideas, including names of people you’d like to interview. You will present an oral presentation to the class on your approach.
We will watch short documentaries from various Web sites: www.nytimes.com, www.miamihearld.com, etc.

Week three:
January 23 and 25
Jan. 23: Lecture basics of documentary writing. In-class writing assignment.
Jan. 25- BRING YOUR HARD DRIVES TO CLASS. Josh Shear and Wayde Klipper will help you set up your hard drive formats.
Sign “Release and assumption of risk” form for all FIU equipment used during the semester.
All your work has to be saved on your own hard drives.
You will be given sample proposals and sample scripts

Week four:
January 30 and Feb. 1
You will deliver a formal proposal for Doc #1, which will include your interviewees.

Week five:
Feb. 6 and 8
Feb. 6 – Interview questions due in class.
Feb. 8 – More discussions on writing – In-class writing assignment
Begin shooting your mini-doc, sending me your interview questions and reporting in to me on progress.

Week Six:
Feb. 13 and 15
Show me your work – whatever you have.
Transcribe interviews, log footage and create a paper cut with first draft of a script
Review of editing systems from Josh or Wayde

Week Seven:
Feb. 20 and 22
Professor reviews all docs and will request changes, if necessary.

Week Eight:
Feb. 27 and March 1
Final edit of Doc # 1

Week Nine:
March 6 and 8
Class screens all docs and students discuss what they’ve learned in the process.
Discuss topics for Doc #2. Bring written proposals for Doc #2

Week Ten:
March 13-16 SRPING BREAK

Week Eleven:
March 20 and 22
March 20 Bring doc questions to class and review.
Begin Shooting Doc. #2

Week Twelve:
March 27 and 29
March 27: Discuss Writing: In-class writing assignment
Shooting/Transcribing, logging, paper cut

Week Thirteen:
April 3 and 5
Editing Instructions – Editing Doc #2

Week Fourteen:
April 10 and 12
Show first draft of Doc to me/make changes

Week Fifteen/Sixteen:
April 17 and 19
Prof. final screenings: delivery of script
April 24 and 26
This is exam week, but we don’t have a final exam for this class.

Academic Honesty
As FIU students, you are expected to strictly follow the honor code regarding academic honesty. Florida International University outlines your responsibilities as follows:
*Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to
demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Misconduct includes: Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Any students who fail to meet these expectations will receive an “F” for the course grade and will be reported to the chair of the department, as well as the dean of the school. 

This syllabus may be changed by the instructor if adjustments are required because of students’ skill sets or community-based projects that may be offered to FIU classes.