

DC 380/480 Project Bluelight

A Place To Call Home

Class Time:

June 12th – 17th (Production)

July 10th, 2:00 – 4:00pm: Rough Cut Feedback

August (date TBD): Fine Cut Feedback

Instructor: Anuradha Rana, MFA, MA

Email: anu.rana@depaul.edu

Office Phone: 312-362-5371

Office: CDM 519

Office Hours (Skype): Mon 11:00am–12:30 pm

PROJECT LEADS

Dana Kupper: Story Director

Anuradha Rana: Producer / Story Director

Susanne Suffredin: Story Director

JoAnne Zielinski: Producer

Course Website: D2L

PREREQUISITES: DC 371/471 or equivalent.

This course assumes prior documentary production experience and knowledge of the major documentary approaches and techniques. Competency in camera operation, sound recording, and editing are also assumed.

Requirements and Evaluation

Evaluation is based on participation and performing all crew duties assigned, working collaboratively in groups in order to research and prepare the pre-production materials, pitch and provide feedback.

Attendance and participation during production and Post-production with a positive attitude and in collegial spirit	50%
Creativity, problem-solving and going beyond the call of duty	15%
Post-production: Logging and transcriptions, feedback to editor on rough cuts.	20%
A 2-3 page self-evaluation uploaded to D2L by the end of the term (guidelines will be provided)	15%

Letter grades will be based on the minimum percentages of total points earned.

A	94%	A-	90%	Excellent
B+	87%	B	83%	Very Good
B-	80%	C+	77%	Good
C	73%	C-	70%	Satisfactory
D	60%			
F	0%			Failure to participate.

Class Format

Class meetings will involve production meetings, production, debrief & reflection, post-production, and critique / feedback.

Course Overview

Project Bluelight “A Place to Call Home” is the second of two sequential courses that will create a short documentary in collaboration with Depaul USA on the subject of homelessness.

The key to understanding homelessness today and ultimately ending it begins with changing perceptions. Our documentary project, A PLACE TO CALL HOME will focus on the work of the St. Louis chapter of DePaul USA to create awareness and understanding of the challenges of the chronically homeless and the importance of providing permanent supportive housing to this population most in need.

The documentary will include portraits of people involved with the St. Louis Permanent Supportive Housing initiative of DePaul USA. These will include clients who are marginalized, homeless and struggling with mental and physical disabilities, caretakers, volunteers, and people within the administration.

Students will work in groups of four to complete production on a short documentary in collaboration with Depaul USA in St. Louis, MO on issues related to homelessness in the U.S. Each group will:

- Complete production during the trip to St. Louis between June 13th – June 17th.
- Log and transcribe footage by June 24th.
- Communicate with the editor to bring the film to completion by August 31st.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. ***make short documentaries for a specific purpose.***
It is challenging enough to complete a short documentary within a limited amount of time, but to also achieve a goal beyond entertainment requires collaboration, communication and a vision for bringing different elements together. The extra challenge here lies in making short episodes that can be watched independently, or together as a complete film.
2. ***utilize and push your own skills*** in directing / producing / cinematography / location sound recording / editing / graphic design and writing for documentary film, while also learning to work collaboratively as one of three documentary units with an overall cohesive and creative vision.
3. ***engage different roles and responsibilities in an exceptionally transdisciplinary studio environment*** by working as a production unit within a larger creative team, creative problem-solving and meeting regular milestones.
4. demonstrate an understanding of the work done by Depaul USA in order to alleviate the issue of homelessness in St. Louis.
5. execute talent and location contracts.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT DURING THE PROGRAM

I understand that as a participant in *Project Bluelight: A Place to Call Home* I am viewed as a representative of both DePaul University and if abroad, the United States. As a guest—and, if applicable, at the host institution and with a host family—I will consistently strive to be a credit to DePaul University.

I will abide by all local laws, including laws governing the use of drugs and alcohol. I will promptly report any injuries or criminal activity affecting me or the DePaul group to the Instructor or to a faculty member associated with the program. I will abide by any applicable rules established by the class instructor and of the host institution, if applicable, including rules regarding visitors and curfews.

During the duration of the Program (including travel to and from the Program), I will act in accordance with the policies and guidelines set forth in the Code of Student Responsibility (<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/code-of-student-responsibility/general-information/Pages/default.aspx>), as well as any other Program-specific policies, guidelines, or reasonable directives that may be communicated to me by Program Directors and staff. I understand that my failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the Program (at my own expense) or the University, and may also result in the loss of Program Fees or tuition and academic consequences such as failing grades.

Accounting for such variables as distance and time, I understand that any disciplinary action will be effectuated according to principles of fundamental fairness that are consistent with the spirit of the Code of Student Responsibility.

Class Policies:

This class replicates the professional model and you are expected to adhere to professional standards. Team members who do not carry their weight, repeatedly cause distractions or generally exhibit an attitude that erodes team morale may be “fired” from the project and accordingly fail the class.

-
- Faculty interaction: The class meets on pre-determined times for the first two weeks of the quarter and two weeks near the end of the quarter. The instructor will be checking in with each group on a weekly basis.
- A detailed schedule and timeline that specifies milestones and deadlines will be defined by the beginning of the project.
- Plagiarism: It is your professional responsibility to ensure that all submitted work is your own. Please read DePaul's policy on plagiarism and other academic integrity violations at:
<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/ContributionFolder/Resources/Students/ViolationDefinitions.html#aiPlagiarism>
- Incomplete: An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final and approved by the Dean of the School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.
- Students with disabilities: If you feel you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted either:
 - PLuS Program (for students with LD or AD/HD) at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/plus/>
 - The office of Students with Disabilities (for all other disabilities) at <http://www.studentaffairs.depaul.edu/studentswithdisabilities/>

Online Instructor Evaluation: Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over two weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online at <https://mycti.cti.depaul.edu/mycti>

SCHEDULE

June 12th

10:00 - 2:00pm
Equipment prep and pickup.

June 13th

7:30am
Load equipment in vans.

8:00am
Leave for St. Louis

2:30pm – Arrive in St. Louis

4:00 – 6:00pm
Pre-production meeting at Depaul USA.

June 14th, 15th, 16th

10:00am – 8:00pm (Schedule may vary)
PRODUCTION

June 17th

10:00am
Meeting & Breakfast with Depaul USA

12:00pm
Leave for Chicago.

Monday, June 19th

10:00am
Drop off Equipment.

July 10th

2:00 – 4:00pm
Rough Cut screening and feedback

August (date tbd)

Fine Cut screening and feedback.