

**DC 380/480 Project Bluelight Spring Quarter 2018**

**Tu 10:00AM - 1:15PM**

**14EAS 00214, Loop**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Susanne Suffredin Office: CDM 459

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Email will be answered within 24 hours; Saturday emails by Monday

**Course Overview and Learning Goals**

**Course Website D2L**

**Course Overview**

Chicago documentary production company Kindling Group is gearing up for another season of their Veterans Coming Home in Spring 2018 [www.veteranscominghome.org](http://www.veteranscominghome.org). Students will collaborate with Kindling Group to create short non-fiction videos around the issues of veterans returning to the classroom and finding purpose after the military and learn the world of creating a cross-platform public media campaign. Working with Kindling Group, our students will research existing on-line content, pitch story ideas of which selected ones will be developed into short videos that will become a part of the Veterans Coming Home online transmedia campaign. As a companion to that launch, students will learn the work flow of creating online content that will attract an audience and advance the main story concept of this multiplatform series.

**Learning Goals**

- create short digital pieces for the web, working in crews of 3 and participate in other exercises over the quarter.
- develop skills in conceptualizing, directing and editing short digital pieces to support existing Multi-platform web series with professional documentary house in Chicago.
- understand and incorporate interview techniques  
understand techniques for visualizing and shooting observational footage, and construct narratives through the integration of sound and images.
- understand and implement guidelines for web series work
- PREREQUISITES: DC 210 and DC 220 or equivalent.

**No Required Text**

**Required Materials and Equipment** Firewire or USB 3.0 Hard Drive and access to adequate software for editing projects.

**Grading:** Assignment Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria will be posted in D2L

PROJECT	TOTAL POINTS
#1 Initial Pitch	10
#2 Group Pitch to Kindling Group	10
#3 Pre-production Package	10
#4 Production	20
#5 Rough Cut/ feedback from Kindling	10
#6 Fine Cut	20
<b>Participation</b>	<b>10</b>
Attendance	10
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>

A = 100-93    A- = 92-90    B+ = 89-88    B = 87-83    B- = 82-80  
C+ = 79-78    C = 77-73    C- = 72-70    D+ = 69-68    D = 67-63    D- = 62-60    F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence (all assignments are graded excellent and submitted on time), B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D indicates unsatisfactory work, and F is a failure to demonstrate an understanding of course concepts.

### **Class 1 - 3/27 Intro to class and assignments**

Class Reviews Documents posted in D2L

Meet with Kindling Group Digital Producers (at DePaul) to discuss requirements including:

1. Overview of VCH series
2. Scope of content the students will be producing for KG social media platforms
3. KG will describe how they present to clients from pitch to final edit
4. KG will explain digital policies, expectations and basic social media "do's and don'ts"
5. KG will present their tech specs for upcoming work
6. KG will provide advice in the area of research both of web content and organizations and characters to follow (modified RFP)
7. Overview of KG's internal Processes and Procedures
8. Based on conversations with KG, we will establish a communication work flow with Andrew
9. Discuss Pre-production Interview
10. Parameters for Pitch presentation from KG
11. Class will write a beginning reflection on subject matter and process being presented to them
12. **Assignment: Write up two ideas to pitch to class DUE: 4/3 posted to D2L**

### **Class 2 - 4/3 Research/pitch to class**

Students present ideas and first pitch of story/ character for their pieces

Class will discuss Doc vs digital differences including:

1. Quicker turn around
2. Reshaping story structure to hit core right away

Class ideas are sent to Kindling for Vetting/ top 10 ideas are selected for Kindling presentation

### **Class 3 - 4/10 Establish groups and roles in each group**

5 Groups of 3 are created and ideas are decided on

Work flow is discussed

Group roles are assigned

Review other work on web that fits the criteria (and some that doesn't)

**Assignment: Each group creates a 5-10 min pitch presentation of two selected ideas for Kindling Group DUE: 4/17**

### **Class 4 - 4/17 Pitch to Kindling/ decide on ideas**

Students will prepare a 5-10 min pitch/ presentations

KG person comes to DePaul to listen and select top 5 ideas

**Class works in groups to start creating Pre-production package DUE: 4/24**

### **Class 5 - 4/24 Pre-Production Package**

Groups present Pre-Production Package to include:

planning for upcoming filming

Review of production work flows

### **Class 6 - 5/1 Production**

Class will review where all groups are at with production

Review of post work flows

Address issues that have come up with subject(s) and production logistics

### **Class 7 - 5/8 Rough Cuts**

First rough cuts presented to class for feedback

### **Class 8 - 5/15 Process Review**

Class reflection of subject matter and work flows check in/ screen revised rough cuts

### **Class 9 - 5/22 Screen Rough Cuts with Kindling**

Kindling Group presents updates to WCH along with feedback to rough cuts

## Class 10 - 5/29 Internal Rough Cut Screening and Critique

**FINAL 6/5 8:30-10:45AM Screen with Kindling Group**

### **Changes to Syllabus**

**This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter.**

**Depending on time factors and guest artist opportunities, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.**

**If a change occurs, it will be addressed during class or posted under Announcements in D2L.**

### Course Policies

**In addition to DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following special policies will apply to this course.**

**Attendance** – Classes will consist of lecture, screenings, discussion, and creative exercises. **Attendance is mandatory.** An absence is defined as not showing up for class, or showing up 15 minutes or more late. Any absences, late arrivals or early departures will result in a reduction of the attendance/participation grade.

**Assignments** – Assignments must be completed by the due date as indicated in the syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. Exported files of projects should have a slate **labeled with title, assignment, crew names and running time.**

**Screenings** – Film screenings and assignment screening discussions are an integral part of the course participation grade. Selected films will be analyzed for specific conceptual and stylistic choices. We will apply the same standards to the analysis of group projects. Be open to being challenged and honest as there will be differing ideas and points of view expressed. These discussions are important in the development of your ability to collaborate.

**Crew Responsibilities** – You will form production groups of three at the beginning of the quarter and remain with that group for the duration of the quarter. Each person in the group will rotate through the major creative roles as producer/director, camera operator/shooting sound and editor for each assignment. You are expected to participate in all aspects of the production/post process for each project. Peer feedback will be assessed at the end of each assignment and will be counted toward the participation grade.

**Equipment Use Policies** – Policies for checking out equipment and reserving the CDM “Stage” are posted on the D2L Course website. A list of equipment used in this class is also provided.

### School Policies

**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.

**Email:** Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

**Academic Integrity Policy:** This course will be subject to the academic integrity policy passed by faculty. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>

**Plagiarism:** The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work any assignment, which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

**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 College of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.