

Intro to Multimedia Journalism

This is a sample syllabus. Actual course topics and assignments may vary by instructor and class.

Week 1

What is Multimedia? We'll clarify what we mean by "multimedia journalism." We'll take a look at the best multimedia news stories on the web and get a feel for how photos, audio, and video can enhance the written word.

Assignment: Based on the lecture, come up with a story you think would best be told as a multimedia package and set up the blog where you will feature your multimedia story over the coming weeks.

Week 2

The Multimedia Toolkit. A basic multimedia toolkit consists of a few essential tools that can fit inside a small backpack – video camera, still camera, laptop, editing software, and internet connection. It may sound expensive, but we will uncover all kinds of quick and dirty ways to pack plenty of punch into your mobile production house.

Assignment: Keep up with your blog, adding entries as you research your topic. Upload at least three images to your site and get a short piece of audio you want to use in your project, whether it's a piece of music or a brief interview with one of your subjects. Post it on your blog.

Week 3

Audio & Video Storytelling. Learn how to identify what parts of your story to tell in pictures, what parts are best as video, and when to use good 'ole fashion prose.

Assignment: At this point in the class, you should have enough material to put together a short video or slideshow presentation. Go ahead and upload it to your blog so we can all have a look at it. We'll review them in our chat next week.

Week 4

The Whole Package. We'll take a look at the state of journalism today and some of the different theories about where it's headed. We will identify how multimedia skills – or "multi-platform production" skills, as some call it – can help you navigate these turbulent waters and see your way clear to dry land.

Assignment: By now, you should have posted all the material you have gathered and produced on your blog. Your blog page should include at least a dozen entries with a mix of text, photos, video, and audio.