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**PR 590: Directed Research**

**Beyond the Xs and Os with USC Athletics**

**Number of Units: 4**

**Fall 2019**

**Section:** 21284D

**Location:** Office

**Instructor:** Miki Turner

**Office:** ANN 414E

**Contact Info:** mpturner@usc.edu

**Student: Name:**

Grayson Adler

Hunter Patterson

Julia Adams

Cameron Patterson

Arion Taylor

**Student ID:**

**Major:** Journalism

**Contact Info:**

**I. Course Description**

This course is a collaboration between Annenberg and USC Athletics. Students will learn advanced production techniques by assisting the athletics department with live streaming and other aspects of video production. Additionally, you will be expected to document your experience with an athlete or team and produce a 15-minute mini doc to fulfill your requirements for Annenberg.

**II. Overall Learning Objectives**

Students will work with the professor and the USC Athletics live streaming team to perfect their skills in play-by-play commentary, video production and direction, live video streaming, on-air reporting and documentary filmmaking.

**III. Description of Assignments**

Assignments will vary from week-to-week. They will include live streaming athletic events in the fall. That would include women’s soccer, men’s tennis, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s water polo and football. Students will also be expected to pitch stories. Your final project will be a mini-doc on one of the athletes or teams you’ve covered throughout the season. Please be advised that assignments may change with very short notice and that the schedule below includes some TBD elements.

**IV. Grading**

**a. Breakdown of Grade**

| Assignment | Points | % of Grade  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Production Assignments | 100 | 60 |
| Pitching Stories | 50 | 10 |
| Final Project | 100 | 30 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | **250** | **100%** |

**b. Grading Scale**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 95% to 100%: A | 80% to 83%: B- | 67% to 69%: D+ |
| 90% to 94%: A- | 77% to 79%: C+ | 64% to 66%: D |
| 87% to 89%: B+ | 74% to 76%: C | 60% to 63%: D- |
| 84% to 86%: B | 70% to 73%: C- | 0% to 59%: F |

Students must earn a grade of B or better in PR 590 in order to receive “Credit” (CR) towards the major.

**c. Grading Standards**

To maintain a 3.0 average students are required to turn in classwork on time, participate in class discussions--particularly when there is a guest lecturer; provide technical assistance when needed in the field and pass any in-class quizzes or assignments.

All assignments will be edited on a professional basis and you will be judged first on the accuracy, fairness and objectivity of your stories. You will then be evaluated for broadcast style, editing, production value, originality and the ability to meet deadlines.

 **“A” stories** are accurate, clear, comprehensive stories that are well written and require only minor copyediting (i.e., they would be aired or published). Video work must also be shot and edited creatively, be well paced and include good sound bites and natural sound that add flavor, color or emotion to the story.

 **“B” stories** require more than minor editing and have a few style or spelling errors or one significant error of omission. For video, there may be minor flaws in the composition of some shots or in the editing. Good use of available sound bites is required.

 **“C” stories** need considerable editing or rewriting and/or have many spelling, style or omission errors. Camera work and editing techniques in video stories are mediocre or unimaginative, but passable. Sound bites add little or no color - only information that could be better told in the reporter’s narration.

 **“D” stories** require excessive rewriting, have numerous errors and should not have been submitted. Camera work is unsatisfactory or fails to show important elements.

 **“F” stories** have failed to meet the major criteria of the assignment, are late, have numerous errors or both. Your copy should not contain any errors in spelling, style, grammar and facts. Any misspelled or mispronounced proper noun will result in an automatic “F” on that assignment. Any factual error will also result in an automatic “F” on the assignment. Accuracy is the first law of journalism. The following are some other circumstances that would warrant a grade of “F” and potential USC/Annenberg disciplinary action:

• Fabricating a story or making up quotes or information.

• Plagiarizing a script/article, part of a script/article or information from any source.

• Staging video or telling interview subjects what to say.

• Using video shot by someone else and presenting it as original work.

• Shooting video in one location and presenting it as another location.

**V. Assignment Submission Policy**

Assignments will be made by USC Athletics in collaboration with Annenberg professor. Since the majority of the work will involve live streaming, deadlines will be in accordance with the dates in which the work is done and completed. For Annenberg, due dates will be included on the weekly breakdown below. You will need to check in with athletics weekly to determine what your assignment will be.

**VI. Required Readings and Bibliography of Sources**

N/A

**VII. Laptop Policy**

All undergraduate and graduate Annenberg majors and minors are required to have a PC or Apple laptop that can be used in Annenberg classes. Please refer to the [Annenberg Virtual Commons](http://vc.uscannenberg.org/) for more information. To connect to USC’s Secure Wireless network, please visit USC’s [Information Technology Services](http://itservices.usc.edu/wireless/support/) website.

**VIII. Add/Drop Dates for Session 001 (15 weeks: 8/26/19 – 12/6/19)**

**Friday, September 13:** Last day to register and add classes for Session 001

**Friday, September 13:** Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W,” except for Monday-only classes, and receive a refund for Session 001

**Tuesday, September 17**: Last day to drop a Monday-only class without a mark of “W” and receive a refund for Session 001

**Friday, October 11:** Last day to drop a course without a mark of “W” on the transcript for Session 001. [Please drop any course by the end of week three (or the 20 percent mark of the session) to avoid tuition charges.]

**Friday, October 11:** Last day to change pass/no pass to letter grade for Session 001. [All major and minor courses must be taken for a letter grade.]

**Friday, November 15:** Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W” for Session 001

**IX. Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Research or Activity** | **Deliverable/Due Dates** |
| **Week 1** **Dates: 8/26-8/30** | Meeting with Athletics and Annenberg Professor. Students will get training on producing live streamed events. | Sample video interview of USC athlete following practice or a game. Due 9/3 |
| **Week 2****Dates: 9/2-9/6** | Research upcoming assignment from athletics: Women’s soccer on 9/6. Reading assignment: <https://muckrack.com/blog/2018/12/18/how-to-pitch-tv> | **[Labor Day: Monday, September 2]** |
| **Week 3****Dates: 9/9-9/13** | Research upcoming assignment from athletics: Women’s volleyball vs. Howard on 9/14; and discussion of final project ideas to subsequently be approved by professor. | An outline of final project idea due 9/17. |
| **Week 4** **Dates: 9/16-9/20** | Training on directing segments with Jose and Rich from USC Athletics. Video shooting techniques with Prof. Turner and USC Athletics. | Due 9/18. Readings: <http://www.americansportscastersonline.com/radiosportscastingtips.html>https://www.jeadigitalmedia.org/2017/09/18/5-resources-to-improve-your-sports-broadcasting-play-by-play-and-color-commentary/ |
| **Week 5** **Dates: 9/23-9/27** | On-Air play-by-play training. Guest commentator: TBD | Watch 5 minutes of any athletic event and record your own play-by-play for podcast/radio. Reading: <https://www.desktop-documentaries.com/documentary-treatment.html> |
| **Week 6****Dates: 9/30-10/4** | Produce preview of upcoming men’s tennis championships in Tulsa Oklahoma. Interview players and coach. | Turn in rough draft of mini doc treatment. |
| **Week 7****Dates: 10/7-10/11** | USC athletics assignment TBD; discussion of treatment. | Turn in rough draft of mini doc script. |
| **Week 8****Dates: 10/14-10/18** | No assignment. Professor will arrange meetings to go over script. | [**Fall Recess:** Thursday, October 17 and Friday, October 18] |
| **Week 9****Dates: 10/21-10/25** | USC athletics: men’s and women’s basketball preview interviews. Pitch athletics a story on a compelling athlete from either of these teams. USC vs. UCLA football assignment TBD. | This will be a 3-5 minute video clip including broll from practice; shots of the student in class or en route and bites from other players or coaches. |
| **Week 10****Dates: 10/28-11/1** | Documentary production. You will make arrangements to start shooting interviews this week. | Pitch story to USC athletics. Due 10/30. |
| **Week 11****Dates: 11/4-11/8** | Discussion and critique of first cut. | Documentary production. |
| **Week 12****Dates: 11/11-11/15** | Discussion and critique of rough draft. |  |
| **Week 13****Dates: 11/18-11/22** | USC Athletics: Preview of Men’s Water Polo MPSF tournament. | Edits and fixes. Rough cut due on 11/25. |
| **Week 14****Dates: 11/25-11/29** | No class | [**Thanksgiving Recess:** Wednesday, November 27, to Sunday, December 1] |
| **Week 15****Dates: 12/2-12/6** | Final cut due on mini-doc. | Edits and fixes. |

**X. Policies and Procedures**

**Additional Policies**

N/A

**Internships**

The value of professional internships as part of the overall educational experience of our students has long been recognized by the School of Journalism. Accordingly, while internships are not required for successful completion of this course, any student enrolled in this course that undertakes and completes an approved, non-paid internship during this semester shall earn academic extra credit herein of an amount equal to 1 percent of the total available semester points for this course. To receive instructor approval, a student must request an internship letter from the Annenberg Career Development Office and bring it to the instructor to sign by the end of the third week of classes. The student must submit the signed letter to the media organization, along with the evaluation form provided by the Career Development Office. The form should be filled out by the intern supervisor and returned to the instructor at the end of the semester. No credit will be given if an evaluation form is not turned into the instructor by the last day of class. Note: The internship must by unpaid and can only be applied to one journalism class.

**Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

**a. Academic Conduct**

*Plagiarism*

Presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* (<https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct (<http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>).

*USC School of Journalism Policy on Academic Integrity*

The following is the USC Annenberg School of Journalism’s policy on academic integrity and repeated in the syllabus for every course in the school:

“Since its founding, the USC School of Journalism has maintained a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found plagiarizing, fabricating, cheating on examinations, and/or purchasing papers or other assignments faces sanctions ranging from an ‘F’ on the assignment to dismissal from the School of Journalism. All academic integrity violations will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Affairs & Community Standards (SJACS), as per university policy as well as journalism school administrators.”

In addition, it is assumed that the work you submit for this course is work you have produced entirely by yourself, and has not been previously produced by you for submission in another course or Learning Lab, without approval of the instructor.

**b. Support Systems**

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

**XI. About Your Instructor**

Award-winning photojournalist/producer/author Miki Turner (***journey to the woman i’ve come to love, tomorrow***) has been working in the communications industry for more than 29 years, specializing in print, television, radio and new media. Before completing her first book, ***journey to the woman i’ve come to love***, Turner held positions at the NFL Network, Jet magazine, ESPN, MSNBC.com, AOL.com, BET, and several newspapers.