MDIA2013

Making Virtual Reality Documentaries

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Today's documentary storytelling formats now include 360 videos, Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR). News organisations are regularly producing short VR stories across diverse topics and Not-For-Profit organisations are harnessing the power of virtual reality as 'empathy machines' to promote awareness of issues, deepen knowledge and encourage support. The VR form's popularity is underpinned by accessible viewing on YouTube platforms and smart phones as well as VR dedicated devices.

This course provides you with the practical skills in Virtual Reality (VR) documentary production that are increasingly part of the multiplatform media environment. You will develop hands-on creative approaches to VR immersive documentary storytelling from idea, script, videoing and narration and editing to final video. The course's practical elements will be supported by theoretical readings, discussion and analysis of immersive long-form documentaries and their communication and storytelling strategies.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate practical, technical and communication skills in the production of VR documentary.
2. Apply theoretical understandings of immersive storytelling in documentary and communications to production practice.
3. Produce a VR video for a media production portfolio and / or public channel such as YouTube.
4. Critique and situate the history and theory of immersive storytelling within individual media practice.

Teaching Strategies

This course provides you with practical skills creating VR storytelling for the journalism and communication industries. During the course, you will produce a VR video through hands-on lab sessions and field work. You will have equitable access to equipment and post-production editing facilities. The practical work will be supplemented with theoretical discussion and analysis of immersive storytelling to enhance your production skills.

Assessment

All assessments must be submitted. **A UF grade may be awarded if all assessments are not submitted**.

The Robert Webster labs are available 24 / 7 to students via your student card for editing on Premiere Pro. Please ensure your card gives you access to the labs.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
VR Production (Group)	30%	04/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3
VR Post-Production (Individual)	40%	23/04/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Reflection Paper (Individual)	30%	18/04/2021 11:59 PM	2, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: VR Production (Group)

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Small group (2-4) videoing and interviews for a three to five minute VR video. Feedback provided via LMS.

Additional details:

See Moodle for more information.

Submission notes: See Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: VR Post-Production (Individual)

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Three to five minutes

Details:

Editing and sound post-production of three to five minute documentary VR video with narration. Submitted with narration script transcript (approx. 1000 words). Feedback provided via LMS.

Additional details:

If you require advice about editing or other technical assistance relating to your project outside the tutorial, please see the Technical Resource Centre (TRC).

360 camera kits supplied via the TRC loans outside tutorials. See Moodle for further information on borrowing.

Robert Webster labs are available for editing outside tutorials.

Special consideration via myunsw is required for extensions.

Submission notes: Script no longer required.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Reflection Paper (Individual)

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1500 words

Details:

1,500-word reflection. Feedback provided via LMS.

Additional details:

Harvard Referencing or APA required.

See Moodle for further assessment information.

It is recommended you write your reflection prior to the due date.

Submission notes: see Moodle

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Studio	**INTRODUCTION: Why tell immersive stories?** *Plus key definitions, introduction to assessment story topic, and introduction to Insta 360 One X cameras.* *Note: you need a smart phone for this course (or at least one person in your group) to connect to the camera.* Readings: see Moodle. The textbook is required reading. Textbook: Bosworth M., & Sarah, L. (2019). *Crafting Stories for Virtual Reality*. Oxon / New York: Routledge.
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Studio	**VR STORYTELLING STYLES** **Immersive narratives and news and other storytelling styles** Refer to Moodle for Reading. Textbook required (see above). Story and film workshop.
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Studio	VR storytelling styles part 2: Not for Profit storytelling and the 'empathy machine' Refer to Moodle for readings. Group film workshop after above: Coogee beach (weather permitting). Meet in class first.
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Studio	Audio Immersive Story Telling Sound and narration workshop

		Refer to Moodle for readings.
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Studio	Group Workshop filming Meet in class for briefing unless otherwise arranged. Please have a mask for public transport (tram) to Circular Quay.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	**Please use this week to work on your group project and also plan your individual major project.**
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Studio	Editing Immersive Storytelling Editing workshop **Group assessment exercise due this week.**
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Studio	**Ethics and Immersive Storytelling** **Refer to Moodle for readings.** **Major story workshop time**
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Studio	Immersive VR story telling Oculus Rift and VR documentary (Covid-19 restrictions dependent) Refer to moodle for reading.
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Studio	**Editing major story workshop and essay (reflection) workshop time.** **No readings.**

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Bosworth, M., and Sarah, L. (2019). *Crafting Stories for Virtual Reality.* NY / Oxon: Routledge, available via UNSW bookshop that also offers eBook purchases.

Additional readings available via Moodle Library Link (the green jigsaw icon)

Insta 360 cameras, audio equipment, editing Premiere Pro and cardboard headsets are available via the Labs and TRC.

The Insta 360 One X app (Apple and Google Play) is required to film and record with the cameras.

The Insta 360 One X studio can be downloaded on your personal laptop, however it is recommended you edit on the same desktop computer in the lab for consistency.

Recommended Resources

Please see Moodle for recommended editing resources and VR production links.

YouTube app installed on a smart phone is recommended.
If you wish to edit at home, Adobe Creative Cloud offers student subscriptions but please speak to the TRC to ensure your laptop / home desktop is appropriate for editing at home.

Please see Moodle for other resources, such as Adobe VR editing guides and other helpful links.

Course Evaluation and Development

This is the second year the course has run. We welcome your feedback throughout as well as formally at the end of the course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

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CRICOS

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.