Media and Public Service: Birmingham Civil Rights Movement
DCS 450
Spring 2013
T Th 12:30-1:45
HHB 342

Instructor:
Michele Forman
Office: HHB 333  Office hours: MW 11:30-1:30
Phone: 934-8560 or 821-7557
Email: mforman@uab.edu

Course Objectives:

This course examines the role media plays in shaping public attitudes and behavior on a variety of social issues. Students will learn through analysis and critique, as well as the production of media pieces of their own.

This year, the focus will be on the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham as part of the 50th Anniversary of the events of 1963. Students will learn how to research and produce short documentary films about the history of Birmingham Movement during the Civil Rights era. Mass meetings at Movement churches educated and inspired participants to take direct action against the unfair laws that denied freedom and equality to Birmingham citizens. The films the students produce will premiere at the Alys Stephens Center as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration in September.

In the course, students will learn how to use HD cameras, digital editing software, and master the basics of oral history interviewing and documentary film composition and editing.

Course readings will be available on Blackboard website.

Class Schedule

Week 1—Jan 10
Course Introduction

Week 2— Jan 15 and 17
T-Civil Rights Movement—Historical Introduction from Emancipation to World War II
Th—Camera Lesson 1

Reading: Parting the Waters excerpt (course website)

Week 3—Jan 22 and 24
T—Civil Rights Movement: Brown vs. Board Decision, Montgomery Bus Boycott, and Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights
T—Camera Lesson 2

Pre-Production Assignment: Schedule and take Camera Test
Week 4—Jan 29 and 31
T—Civil Rights Movement—Birmingham Churches and Film Topics
Th—Qualitative Interview Lesson 1

Week 5—Feb 5 and 7
T—IRB and Consent Form Training
Th—Topic selection and Pre-Production Planning

Week 7—Feb 12 and 14
T & Th: Fieldwork: Principal Production Starts: Interviews and Observational footage

Week 8—Feb 19 and 21
T—1st Footage Critique
Th—Interview Lesson 2– Specificity, Emotion, and Accessing the Past

Week 9—Feb 26 and 28
T & Th—Digital Media Studio–Editing Introduction

Week 10—March 5 and 7
T—Documentary Narrative Structure–Lecture
Th—Documentary Narrative–in class writing
Sign up for individual meeting times

Reading: *Writers Journey* excerpt

Week 11—March 12 and 14
T & Th Individual Studio Meetings – Digital Media Studio
Narrative Structure and review historical accuracy of gathered oral histories

Spring Break—March 19 and 21

Week 12— March 26 and 28
T—Production Planning: Re-shoots, Additional Interviews, and supporting historical documents for gathered oral histories
Th– Digital Media Studio– Assemblage

Week 13—April 2 and 4
T & Th–Assemblage Critique

Week 14—April 9 and 11
T & Th–Rough Cut Critique

Week 15 April 16 and 18
T & Th–Community Partner Feedback on Rough Cuts
*Sign up for meeting times to discuss revisions*
**Week 16 April 23 and 25**

Individual Meetings

**Week 17 April 30**

Last Day of Class— In Class Screening

**Civil Rights 50th Anniversary Screening— Sept 10, 2013—Alys Stephens Center for the Performing Arts**

**Grading and Requirements:** The requirements for this course and the basis for grades are as follows:

- Pre-Production: 20%
- Production work: 20%
- Post-Production: 20%
- Community Collaboration: 20%
- Final Narrative: 10%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

**Attendance Policy:**
The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. The College of Arts and Sciences complies with the official UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs and therefore allows, with anticipated proper official documentation, absences due to jury or military duty as well as absences due to participation in specific authorized university-sponsored activities.

UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs:


Attendance for this class is mandatory.

**Students with Disabilities:**
If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call 934-4205 or visit DSS at 516 Hill University Center.

**Policy on Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is using the words or thoughts of another person without proper citation; specifically, it is submitting as one’s own work any portion of a book, magazine, journal, handout, original creation, speech, lecture, oral communication, paper, or examination written by someone else. Plagiarism is a serious offense. All members of the educational community must carefully avoid plagiarism by fully acknowledging the sources of all statements, studies, projects, and ideas that have been produced by another person. A student who commits plagiarism may receive an “F” in the course; the Provost and the Registrar may be notified that the offense has been committed.