

## COM 212 • SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNICATION • SPRING/SUMMER 2016

**Instructor:** Dr. Christopher Boulton  
Assistant Professor, Communication

**Email:** [cboulton@ut.edu](mailto:cboulton@ut.edu)

**Office:** Cass Annex #102

**Office Phone:** (813) 257-3425

**Cel Phone:** (413) 687-2720

**Assistant:** Dr. Andrew DeMil, Assistant  
Professor, Languages and Linguistics

**Email:** [ademil@ut.edu](mailto:ademil@ut.edu)

**Office:** Plant Hall #503

**Office Phone:** (813) 257-3359

**Cel Phone:** (813) 455-9300

**DESCRIPTION:** This course takes students abroad to produce a documentary film about a local changemaker working on social justice issues in Marrakech, Morocco. Students will prepare for the trip by meeting with Dr. Boulton once-a-week during the second half of the Spring semester. In mid-May, students will travel to Marrakech, Morocco in order to research, prepare, and produce a short film under the careful guidance of Dr. Boulton, Dr. DeMil, and two Actuality Media production managers. While in Morocco, students will have opportunities to deepen their cross-cultural understanding by climbing a 12th-century Moorish mosque and minaret, exploring the Djemaa el Fna (a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest square in Africa), wandering through souks filled with rugs and spices, eating in riad courtyards and rooftop terraces, bathing on tiled mosaics in public Hammams, visiting a 15th century Jewish cemetery, and relaxing among the lush plants and ponds of Jardin Majorelle. There are no language or production prerequisites for this course and its focus on media activism, public policy, and social entrepreneurship has the potential to appeal to students majoring in Communication, Entrepreneurship, Government and World Affairs, International Business, International and Cultural Studies, Public Health, and Sociology.

**OBJECTIVES:** Student production teams will conduct background research, write an outline and shot list, shoot video and record audio on location, and begin editing for a short film. Thus, all students will 1) develop video production skills, 2) improve cross-cultural understanding, and 3) deepen understanding of social entrepreneurship and media advocacy techniques. Film will be completed during the following Fall and premiered at UT the following Spring.

**DATES** USA during second 7 weeks of Spring and Morocco from May 8 — May 27

**INCLUDES**

- Pre-departure information and preparation materials
- Initial research and introduction to local changemakers
- Instruction and support in documentary storytelling on location
- High definition production equipment for each crew
- Local translator and changemaker liaison
- Lodging at a travelers hostel in single gender rooms
- Two group meals provided each day
- Group airport transfers for arrival and departure
- Local public transportation for production purposes
- Use of group meeting facilities and local cell phone
- Legal documentation and releases for production

**EVALUATION** Final grades will be based on a series of exercises, assignments, and worksheets designed to measure both the comprehension of visual storytelling concepts and the acquisition of relevant technical skills:

Photo Storytelling Exercise and Worksheet  
Documentary Cast List Written Assignment  
Story Pitch Written Assignment  
Story Outline Written Assignments  
Shot List Written Assignment  
Camera and Sound Test Exercise and Worksheet  
Dailies Review Exercise and Feedback Worksheet (for each shoot day)  
Interview Selects Transcript Written Assignment  
Paper Edit Exercise

## **CREWS**

Students will be organized into crews of 4 or 5 people, with each serving as a Producer, Director, Cinematographer, and Sound Recordist. The production process will be highly collaborative, with each person involved in every role and at every stage to some degree.

**FILM SUBJECT:** Each film will reveal the work of a local changemaker through a character-driven story. Each changemaker will provide a key contact that will be a guide and translator for their crew. Students are required to follow any cultural guidelines or ethical considerations that the changemaker stipulates regarding vulnerable members of their community that may appear on camera. In addition, students will participate in an ethics lecture, which will specify the need to adopt a policy of informed consent for any subjects included in their film. Video and photo releases will be provided to the students, written in the national language. A signed release is required for any individual that is included in the final cut of the documentary. For individuals that speak another language or do not read, the release will be explained in detail by a trusted contact to ensure complete comprehension of release. If any individual expresses any unwillingness to appear on camera or to be included in the final documentary, their wishes will be adhered to.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Students and faculty are expected to arrive at (and depart to) the Marrakech airport as a group on the dates specified. Upon arrival, students and faculty will be met by Actuality Media staff with private ground transportation that will drive them to their lodgings. Private ground transportation will be arranged for departure at the end of the program as well. For production purposes, each crew will be expected to travel by public transportation around the greater Marrakech area. Each crew's producer will be given a petty cash budget for which to pay for their crew's transportation throughout the program.

**LODGING, MEALS & BASECAMP:** Each student will be housed in a secure traveler's guesthouse sharing a room with one or two other students of the same gender. Breakfast and dinner of typical Moroccan food will be served as group meals each day at the guesthouse. Dietary restrictions will be considered if possible. Lectures, meetings and editing will take place at a secure apartment within walking distance of student lodgings. Professors Boulton and DeMil will be housed at a private apartment within walking distance of student lodgings and basecamp.

**INSTRUCTION:** Dr. Boulton and Actuality Media staff will work together to give lectures, conduct workshops and oversee the production of each student project. The production process will include the following documentary concepts and milestones:

Visual Storytelling  
 Social Entrepreneurship  
 Research Methods  
 Casting  
 Ethics  
 Fair Use  
 Story Elements

Creating Meaning  
 Writing The Pitch  
 Writing the Story Outline  
 Camera and Sound Test  
 Shot List  
 Shooting Schedule  
 Dailies

### COURSE SCHEDULE (USA)

**Wed, March 16** 1. Changemakers  
**Wed, March 23** 2. Purpose  
**Wed, March 30** 3. Research  
**Wed, April 6** 4. Casting  
**Wed, April 13** 5. Ethics and Fair Use  
**Wed, April 20** 6. Interviewing  
**Wed, April 27** Travel preparations + Moroccan Culture Overview

### COURSE SCHEDULE (MARRAKECH)

(unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at Basecamp)

#### Sun, May 8 – Departure

---

WHEELS UP – Flight From Tampa International	6:05 PM
---	---------

#### Mon, May 9 – Arrival

---

Arrive Menara airport	7:40 PM
Crews and Instructors check in at lodgings	8 PM
Welcome Meeting at Student Hostel	9 PM

#### Tue, May 10 – Research

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
BRIEFING – Documentary Storytelling, Review Research and Casting	9 AM - 11 AM
CHANGEMAKERS - Research meetings	12:30 PM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM

#### Wed, May 11 – Research

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
BRIEFING – Visual Storytelling I, Review Purpose & Interviewing	9 AM - 11 AM
EXERCISE - Photo Storytelling Shoot around Marrakech	
CHANGEMAKERS - Research meetings	1 PM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
REVIEW - Photo Storytelling Shoot Review at BaseCamp	8 PM

**Thu, May 12 – Research**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
<i>DUE: PURPOSE STATEMENT</i>	9 AM
BRIEFING – Story Summary	9 – 10 AM
CHANGEMAKERS - Research meetings	11 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING – Documentary Film Screening	8 PM

**Fri, May 13 – Research**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
<i>DUE: STORY SUMMARY</i>	9 AM
BRIEFING – Story Outline	9 – 10 AM
CHANGEMAKERS - Research meetings	11 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
WORKSHOP – Camera Operating	7:30 PM - 9 PM

**Sat, May 14 – Excursion Day**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
EXCURSION – TBD	TBD
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM

**Sun, May 15 – ½ Day**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
CREW MEETINGS – Story Outline Check-in	9AM - 11AM
PREP – Crews Work On Story and Shooting Plans	12 PM
DINNER – Student Hostel	8 PM

**Mon, May 16 – Prep**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
<i>DUE: Character summary, rough draft story outline</i>	9 AM
BRIEFING – Location and Sound	9 – 10 AM
CREW MEETINGS – Short Check-ins	10 - 11AM
PREP – Crews Work On Story and Shooting Plans	12 PM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
WORKSHOP - Lighting and Focus	7:30 - 9 PM

**Tue, May 17 – Prep**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
<i>DUE: Final Draft of Outline</i>	9 AM
BRIEFING – Visually Storytelling II, Editing	9 – 10:30 AM
CINEMATOGRAPHERS - Meeting at basecamp with Instructors	10:30 AM
PRODUCERS - Scheduling	11 AM
DIRECTORS - Story (1-on-1)	11:30 AM
SOUND OPERATORS - Sonic Storytelling	1 PM
PRODUCERS - Check-in	2 PM

**Tue, May 17 – Prep cont...**

---

CINEMATOGRAPHERS - Check-in	2:30 PM
<i>DUE: Schedule and Shotlist</i>	6 PM
DINNER - Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING: Feature Documentary	7:30 PM

**Wed, May 18 – Prep/Shoot**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel	8 AM
REVIEW – Schedule and Shotlist	9 AM
PREP/SHOOTING – As Needed	11 AM
DINNER - Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING – Review Dailies As Needed	7:30 PM

**Thurs, May 19 – Shoot**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel	8 AM
(Producer's Schedule- See Call Sheet)	
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING - Dailies	7:30 PM

**Fri, May 20 – Shoot**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel	8 AM
(Producer's Schedule - See Call Sheet)	
EDITING – Editors begin organizing and cutting footage	9 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING – Dailies and Story Review	7:30 PM

**Sat, May 21 - Off**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
EXCURSION - TBD	TBD
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM

**Sun, May 22 - Off**

---

BREAKFAST – Student Hostel	8 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM

**Mon, May 23 – Shoot**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel	8 AM
(Producer's Schedule- See Call Sheet)	
EDITING – Editors begin organizing and cutting footage	9 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM
SCREENING – Dailies and Debriefing, Final Shoot Day Discussion	7:30 PM

**Tue, May 24 – Shoot**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel (Producer's Schedule- See Call Sheet)	8 AM
EDITING – Editors progress towards Visual Assembly	9 AM
DINNER – Student Hostel	6 PM

**Wed, May 25 – Visual Assemblies**

---

BREAKFAST - Student Hostel	8 AM
<i>DUE: visual assembly Schedule and Shotlist</i>	9 AM
SCREENING – Visual Assemblies	9 AM
EDITING – Crew review, updates to Visual Assemblies	10 AM
DEPART FOR AIRPORT	TBD
WHEELS UP	7:30 PM

**COURSE SCHEDULE (LONDON)****Wed May May 25 - Arrive**

---

ARRIVE – London Gatwick	11:10 PM
CHECK-IN – <a href="#">Shakespeare Hotel</a>	TBD

**May 26 - History, Media, Justice, & Culture**

---

BREAKFAST – Shakespeare Hotel	8 AM
<u>HISTORICAL BUS TOUR</u>	Morning
LUNCH – Leadenhall Market historic site and Harry Potter film set	1 PM
ART/MEDIA – <a href="#">Mass Media and Activism</a> at Tate Modern Museum	Afternoon
DINNER – <a href="#">Leon</a> (Sustainable Fair Trade Fast Food Restaurant)	6 PM
SHOW – Shakespeare's Globe Theatre ( <a href="#">A Midsummer Night's Dream</a> )	7:30 PM
RETURN – Take tube back to Shakespeare Hotel	TBD

**May 27 - Depart**

---

DEPART FOR U.S. – from London Gatwick	11:40 AM
ARRIVE – at Tampa International	4:05 PM