

# Com 317, Spring 2024

## Digital Post-Production

**Instructor:** Dr. Brent Simonds  
**Phone:** 438-3532  
**E-mail:** [bksimon@ilstu.edu](mailto:bksimon@ilstu.edu)  
**Web Page Schedule:** <https://about.illinoisstate.edu/bksimon/com317/>  
**Canvas:** Course schedule, messages, lecture notes, grades, etc.  
**Office:** Fell 413  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 am – 12:00 p.m.  
or by appointment/Zoom

### Course Objectives

In-depth investigation of the art and craft of film/video editing utilizing state-of-the-art tools and techniques. Technical mastery of video editing software is expected as well as an enhanced historical, theoretical, and aesthetic understanding of visual storytelling.

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Edit a commercial/branded video.
- Edit a documentary.
- Edit a narrative film.
- Exhibit technological competence with state-of-the-art editing software.
- Express informed opinions about the art and craft of film/video editing.

### Recommended Reading

Murch, W. (2001). *In the Blink of an Eye Revised* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Los Angeles: Silman-James Press.

Ondaatje, M. (2002). *The Conversations: Walter Murch and the art of editing film*. New York: Random House.

Bricca, J. (2023). *Documentary Editing: Principles & Practice*. New York: Routledge.

### Course Requirements

Reaction/synopses for two documentaries  
Edited Commercial/Branded Video  
Edited Documentary  
Edited Narrative Film  
Tips and Tricks Final

## Grading

Assignment	Points
Four Written Film Reactions/Synopses	4x10
Edits in Progress (5 points each)	15x5
Edited Commercial/Branded Video	50
Edited Documentary	50
Edited Narrative Film	100
Tips and Tricks Final	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>340</b>

Grade	Percentage	Points
A	90-100%	306+
B	80-89%	272+
C	70-79%	238+
D	60-69%	204+
F	59% & below	203 -

## Course Policies

1. Regular attendance is expected. Students should be prepared to participate (ask questions, complete lab tasks). Being absent/tardy or failure to actively engage in class activities will negatively affect your grade. For any absence to be excused, you must contact the Dean of Students Office and provide them with the necessary documentation (e.g., doctor's note).
2. Deadlines must be met unless you have met with me, and I have approved a delay. Late assignments will have points deducted equivalent to one letter grade for each day late.
3. For your own protection, please keep digital copies of all assignments you submit to me.
4. Plagiarism (i.e., presenting someone else's work as your own or without proper acknowledgment) or any other type of academic dishonesty will result in zero credit on the assignment and perhaps justification for failure in the course.

## Course Schedule

- <https://about.illinoisstate.edu/bksimon/com317/>
- You can also access the schedule by following the "Course Schedule" link on the class Reggiet site.

**Absences due to Student Bereavement:** Students who experience the death of an immediate family member or relative as defined in the University Student Bereavement Policy will be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. Students are responsible for providing appropriate documentation to the Dean of Students office and for contacting the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for completing missed work. More information is available in the Student Bereavement Policy at

<https://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27/>

**Research Participation - Extra Credit:** There will be a few extra credit opportunities for research participation. The extra credit points will be added to your final grade and may not necessarily appear in the gradebook immediately upon your completion of the opportunity. There are no guarantees for extra credit, and it is each student's responsibility to be aware of and take advantage of such opportunities. You may receive extra credit for participating in any of the studies posted to the School of Communication's Research Announcement Board. The Research Announcement Board is updated as research studies are opened/closed, and it is your responsibility to access the Board and be aware of available opportunities. The Research Announcement Board can be accessed via: <https://sites.google.com/site/ilstusocstudies>

In general, each 30 minutes of participation in an extra credit study will earn you .5 Research Credits, but please see the call for participants for the Research Credits associated with each study. For example, if you participate in a research study worth .5 Research Credit, your participation would provide 5 points to your final grade. Each project listed on the Research Announcement Board will indicate the specific number of Research Credits associated with the project. You can only receive five extra points once for Com 317.

I will get evidence of participation and the time of participation from the researcher(s) who administer the research studies at the conclusion of the semester; however, it is your responsibility to make sure that the researchers have the necessary evidence of your participation at the time of the study. Before participating in a study, please be sure to have your name, ULID (i.e., the part of your email before @ilstu.edu), instructor name, and course and section number ready, as you will need to provide these to receive credit. Research Credit can only be applied to one course for each study, unless specified otherwise on the Research Announcement Board. After the final exam, there will be no further opportunities for extra credit or to otherwise improve your grade.

**Non-Research Extra Credit Opportunities (Instructor Determined):** There may be some studies for which you are not eligible (e.g., recruiting based on gender or family structure) or in which you do not wish to take part. Reasonable alternatives are available for those not able or wanting to take part in specific studies, to ensure equitable non-research-based opportunities. Throughout the semester, the instructor will announce non-research opportunities for extra credit, which may include attending a colloquium, reading a recent article or research paper, or attending an on-campus event and writing a summary of the connection of the event to course content. The instructor will make these opportunities and specific details available as they arise.

**Special Needs:** Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website: [www.StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu](http://www.StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu)

**Mental Health Resources:** Life at college can get very complicated. Students sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at [Counseling.IllinoisState.edu](http://Counseling.IllinoisState.edu) or by calling (309) 438-3655.

## Spring 2024 Schedule

Week	Tues	Topic, Lab Activities, and Films	Thurs	Topic, Lab Activities, and Films
1	01/16	Cold/Snow Day	01/18	Introduction, Orientation
2	01/23	History of Editing Doc.	01/25	History of Editing Doc.
3	01/30	Editing with Final Cut Pro	02/01	Editing with Final Cut Pro
4	02/06	Start editing "Two Player"	02/08	Continue editing "Two Player"
5	02/13	Continue editing "Two Player"	02/15	Continue editing "Two Player"
6	02/20	Turn in final edit of "Two Player"	02/22	Film vs. Digital Documentary
7	02/27	Film vs. Digital Documentary	02/29	Editing in Premiere
8	03/05	Editing Documentaries, Set up Edit	03/07	Begin editing "The Ovens of Cappelouin" Documentary
9	03/12	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	03/14	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
10	03/19	Continue editing documentary	03/21	Continue editing documentary
11	03/26	Continue editing documentary	03/28	Turn in final documentary edit
12	04/02	Editing with Resolve/Speed Editor	04/04	Editing with Resolve/Speed Editor
13	04/09	Begin editing "Served Cold" narrative film	04/11	Continue editing narrative film
14	04/16	Continue editing narrative film	04/18	Continue editing narrative film
15	04/23	Continue editing narrative film	04/25	Sound Mixing Your Film
16	04/30	Continue editing narrative film	05/02	Turn in final edit of narrative film

**Final Exam, TBD**