

7th: Digital Media

Project Based Learning • 2019-2020

Course description

This class is focused on giving students authentic tools to navigate and contribute to the digital world that defines modern life. Instagram, Snapchat, Tumblr, Discord, Youtube... these tools facilitate socialization, information dissemination, and interpersonal connection in a very real way for people today. They use video, audio, and photo-based content delivery systems to inform, persuade, and influence their users. This class focuses on film analysis, composition, and research to help students develop critical thinking and visual literacy skills in order to excel in digital media careers and lifestyles.

Course objectives

Students will:

- Understand key components of analyzing visual sources for meaning, purpose, and accuracy.
- Apply basic understanding of compositional techniques to digital video and image productions
- Practice ethical research skills to create a shareable, informative product.

Pre Requirements

This is a 7th-grade rotational elective course. It is offered in two 9-week sessions and one semester-long session. Students should be willing to work collaboratively, participate in discussions, think critically, and ask sincere questions. Learning is primarily project-based, so students should expect to be challenged creatively and authentically.

Materials Needed

Students will need a composition notebook, writing utensils, and open-mind.

Grading Scale

94-100 A	74-76 C
90-93 A-	70-73 C-
87-89 B+	<70 R
84-86 B	
80-83 B-	
77-79 C+	

Homework Policy

This course will rarely, if ever, require homework from students. However, there will be several projects that have extended class time allotted for them. If students are unable to complete the assignment in class, they will be expected to complete it before or after school, or to make other formal arrangements with Mr. McLees.

Mr. Trent McLees

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Week 1

- An introduction to Syllabus
- Class materials review
- Personality types and team formation

Week 2

- Photography
- Angles & Rule of Thirds
- Social Media
- Digital Modification

Week 3

- Videography
- Cinematography
- YouTube & Digital Video

Week 4

- Midterm Quiz
- Media Bias & Reliability
- Research Skills

Week 5

- Research Tasks & Questioning
- Podcasting & Audio Editing
- Script writing

Week 6

- Video Project Intro.
- Podcast Recording

Week 7

- Video Project Filming
- Video Project Editing

Week 8

- Digital Publication
- Copyright
- Blogs and Website Design

Week 9

- Final Reflection
- Portfolio Creation
- Film Festival

