

**VISUAL LEGAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR
SYLLABUS
Fall Term 2013**

Relevant Texts

The primary text for the course is *Video for Change: A Guide for Advocacy and Activism* (Sam Gregory et al. eds., WITNESS 2005).

MiND TV (WYBE Channel 35) has produced a little red and black book entitled *TV Made Easy for MiND Members* which is a guide to making 5-minute videos. You may find it helpful. A copy is on the Course Portal.

In the past I have used as the primary text Andy Glynne, *Documentaries ... and How to Make Them* (2008). It is a text on documentary production. It has a CD of production-related documents and a DVD of three documentaries, two of which are quite good.

Michael Rabiger's *Directing the Documentary* (5th ed. 2009) and Alan Rosenthal's *Writing, Directing, and Producing Documentary Films and Videos* (3rd ed. 2002) are valuable reference texts for nonfiction film production activities.

Copies of these books are on reserve in Biddle. Additional reading materials can be found on the Course Portal.

September 5: Course Introduction

Screening and discussion of "Silenced" which is about abortion clinic escorts; it can be found on YouTube

Screening and discussion of "Pay Up! Criminal Justice Debt in Philadelphia" which can be found among the Student Videos on the Docs & the Law website

Introduction of seminar members and discussion of members' experiences with video production

Outline of Course Requirements, the Production Schedule, and Possible Projects

Screening of excerpts from "Searching for Sugarman"

September 12: Introduction to Advocacy Videos

Screening of "The Things That Put Powelton on the Map"(2006) by the Powelton Village Civic Association and "Pride of the Hill"(2006) by the Cramer Hill

Residents Association (Both of these films were produced as part of the Precious Places Community History Project of Scribe Video Center.)

Discussion of the shooting script of “Pride of the Hill”(on the Course Portal)

Screening of “Impermanent Residence,” “Collateral Immigration Consequences” and “Deportation without Representation” (videos made by students at SUNY-Buffalo Law School)

Discussion of Procedure for Allocating Assignments

September 19: Research, Research, Research!!!!

Screening and discussion of “Food for Thought: The Social Cost of Dining Out”

Screening and discussion of “Don’t Steal My House!: Fraudulent Deed Transactions in Philadelphia”

Discussion of *Video for Change* on preproduction, pp. 108-21

Discussion of B-roll and Audiovisual Elements That Advance Storytelling

Discussion of “Iconic Philadelphia” photo assignment and Flickr Documentaries & the Law Group Memberships

Allocation of Assignments

September 26: Rudiments of Visual Storytelling

Screening and discussion of “Empower: Protecting Children with Disabilities through SSI”

Screening and discussion of the Clemency Videos of Michael Beuke which are available on YouTube

Discussion of *Video for Change* on storytelling for advocacy, pp. 74-108

Discussion of FrameWorks Institute, “Talking about Disparities: The Effect of Frame Choices on Support for Race-Based Policies” (on Course Portal)

October 3: Getting Consent and Protecting Subjects and Contributors

Screening and discussion of “SSI Benefits for Kids”

Screening of “Landlady, Yeh” (a student work)

Discussion of Chapter 2 of *Video for Change* on filmmaker/subject relations, pp. 20-73

Discussion of Center for Social Media, *Honest Truths: Documentary Filmmakers on Ethical Challenges in Their Work* (on the Course Portal)

Discussion of Sample Consent Forms (in *Video for Change*, pp. 305-06 and on the Course Portal)

October 10: Copyright Concerns: Public Domain and Fair Use

Review of Crew Consent forms
Screening of Center on Social Media's Fair Use Video Excerpts
Discussion of Center for Social Media's *Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use*
Discussion of Flickr group photo submissions

October 17: Introduction to Production

Screening of "How to Setup, Light, & Shoot Great Looking Interviews"
Discussion of *Video for Change* on video production, pp. 122-67
Introduction to the equipment in the Visual Digital Media Lab by Jason Hinmon of Penn Law ITS

October 24: Introduction to Interviewing

Instruction in Setting up and Conducting an Interview
Screening of excerpts from and Discussion of Errol Morris's "Standard Operating Procedure"
Status Reports

October 31: Introduction to Editing

Introduction to Final Cut in Vitale Digital Media Lab, WIC, Van Pelt Library, 1st Floor, West End by Lindsay Martin

November 7: Post-Production and Editing

Screening and discussion of "Nowhere to Run: Giving City Kids a Place to Play"
Discussion of *Video for Change* on editing, pp. 168-208

November 14: Post-Production Miscellany: Narration, Music, Credits, & Fact Checking

TBA

November 21: Distribution Strategies

Discussion of Whiteman, "Out of the Theaters and Into the Streets"
Discussion of *Video for Change* on strategic distribution, pp. 233-76

December 4: Wrap up

Screening and Discussion of "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room"

Dated: August 6, 2013