

JSIS 478: Digital Storytelling and Global Citizenship

Spring 2017 • University of Washington

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Overview

Students participate in a service learning environment to tackle a social problem, explore a solution and use digital storytelling to help publicize both to worldwide audiences. The class combines an awareness for civic engagement with the tools (video-making) to affect social change in a powerful, compelling and entertaining way.

Role of Service-Learning in the Course

The service-learning partners in this class provide guidance to students on facing an important social problem (by important, I mean that it is a universal problem encountered across the world) and finding ways to solve it. Service-learning in this class is thus regarded as doing "fieldwork," in that students learn about a specific social issue and explore ways (through directed interviews, participant observation, and service-learning volunteering) how to actually solve it. While we don't expect students to get the Nobel Peace Prize for their impact on society, we do want students to approach the problem in a serious, systematic and thoughtful way. Once the problem has been thoroughly explored and understood, the next step is to find ways to solve it. Then they combine the two aspects - problem and solution - into a short, 3-minute completed video that will be posted on YouTube. Students will work on the problem, solution and video as part of a small team.

Assignments Related to Service-Learning

There will be short in-class and outside-of-class writing assignments, as well as touch points in the process of making a video. Students will present their work-in-progress for regular critiquing and encouragement in class throughout the quarter.

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