



**Course** ATCM 4334.001  
**Course Title** Topics in Critical Media Studies: Nonfiction Web Series  
**Professor** Josef Nguyen  
**Term** Spring 2021  
**Modality** Virtual/Remote, 1:00-3:45PM, Course Discord Server

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### Professor's Contact Information

**Email Address** [jdn160330@utdallas.edu](mailto:jdn160330@utdallas.edu)  
Please consult this resource for proper email etiquette:  
[\[medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087\]](https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087)  
Please allow up to 24 hours for responses to emails

**Office Hours** By appointment

### General Course Information

**Course Description** This class functions as a simulation of professional environments in academics, cultural industries, and non-profits and is intended for students who have completed substantial coursework in Critical Media Studies. Students in the course collaborate to develop critically informed and socially engaged media projects in a variety of public-facing academic and professional contexts.

The Spring 2021 offering of CMS Lab I will have students develop, write, and produce a short-run "Nonfiction Web Series," consisting of critically-informed videos similar to those featured on Vox, Insider, AJ+, NowThis World, and other online documentary, journalism, and educational YouTube channels. The concept and details for the nonfiction web series will be student-driven in consultation with the instructor.

**Learning Outcomes** Students will:

- Develop and produce critically informed media for public dissemination
- Work collaboratively in a media production environment
- Advance proficiencies in critical thinking, research, and writing
- Incorporate insights from existing scholarship and cultural criticism into their own research and creative practice

**Class Platform** Course readings, assignment instructions, and other materials, including submissions, are managed via Box (see below). Course announcements are handled on eLearning. Synchronous class meetings are held on the course Discord server. Please contact the instructor by email for access.

**Required Texts & Materials** All relevant materials will be available online through Box. You will receive an individual Box folder invitation at the start of the semester.

### Course Policies

<b>Grading Criteria</b>	Individual Critical Design and Media Production	25%
	Production Journal	25%
	Collaboration on Nonfiction Web Series	50%

**Class Protocol** This course is primarily designed for synchronous online participation, with weekly meetings on the course Discord server from 1:00-3:45PM on Wednesdays.

Please contact the instructor by email regarding accommodations for asynchronous participation.

**Accommodation** Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

**Classroom Conduct** It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as create and contribute their own work respectfully and productively.

Disagreements and conflicting perspectives will, unavoidably, emerge. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions and expressions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.

Part of the role of encouraging a diverse learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc... Refer to people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.

What you discuss in, create for, and share with this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.

Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.

**Late Work** Late submissions will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline. If you need any extensions, let me know well in advance, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Late work will not receive written feedback by default, even if a no-penalty extension is applied. For feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request.

**Academic Honesty** All work must be original for this class. Unless you are specifically told to collaborate with classmates, complete your graded work individually. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with serious consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to support and strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated.

Please consult [[utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm](http://utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm)]

**Comet Creed** *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:  
“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”*

**UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures** *The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to [[go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies](http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies)] for these policies.*

### Assignments & Academic Calendar

#### Schedule of Online Class Meetings

Please note that instructions for each class meeting will be sent out on a weekly basis, with the agenda set in consultation with students, as this is a student-driven production-oriented course.

**Week 01: Wednesday, 20 January 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 02: Wednesday, 27 January 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 03: Wednesday, 3 February 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 04: Wednesday, 10 February 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 05: Wednesday, 17 February 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 06: Wednesday, 24 February 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 07: Wednesday, 3 March 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 08: Wednesday, 10 March 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**SPRING BREAK Monday, 15 March 2021 – Sunday, 21 March 2021**

**Week 09: Wednesday, 24 March 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 10: Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 11: Wednesday, 7 April 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 12: Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 13: Wednesday, 21 April 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 14: Wednesday, 28 April 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**Week 15: Wednesday, 5 May 2021, 1:00-3:45PM**

**FINALS WEEK NO CLASS MEETING**

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*