

Full Course Title: WITNESS: Using Video and Technology to Open the Eyes of the World to Human Rights Abuse: The Cameras Everywhere Leadership Initiative

Course Title for Registration System: WITNESS: VD & Tch HR

Course Number: SIPAU9000.048

Faculty Advisor: Mary-Lea Cox

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Meeting Date/sTimes: Mondays 6:10P – 8:00P

Location: IAB 409

Office Hours: By appointment

Credits: 3

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

WITNESS uses video to open the eyes of the world to human rights violations. The organization empowers people to transform personal stories of abuse into powerful tools for justice, promoting public engagement and policy change. WITNESS's Cameras Everywhere Leadership Initiative focuses on addressing the challenges and opportunities for human rights work presented by ubiquitous video.

Summary of project:

The WITNESS Capstone would work to expand on and advance our research and advocacy work on these issues. The students would carry out research and/or engagement with relevant stakeholders in technology, human rights and media, as well as support a Cameras Everywhere toolkit to be used in education and outreach on relevant digital media literacies for human rights. The students would be working on a still nascent area of policy discussion and practical advocacy – but one that is of growing importance for human rights. Their work will directly influence WITNESS' own advocacy in this area.

Deliverables to client:

*Workplan based on Project path decisions (per choice of key audiences for Capstone): January 30, 2012

*Initial research analysis: February 13, 2012

*Draft project outline: February 20, 2012

*Draft report: April 16, 2012

*Final report: April 23, 2012

*Presentation of final report: April 30, 2012

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

Above all, students will be required to have excellent written, research and analytical skills. A demonstrated interest and/or experience in new media, technology and human rights would be helpful, as would be a willingness and ability to work creatively.

Within the team, legal expertise, particularly related to questions of privacy, freedom of expression, technology and the internet would be useful as a component but not necessary for every member. This also applies to any student experience in communications and media (especially shooting, working with or editing video).

Initial meeting(s) with your student team in late November or early December, if applicable:

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled:

Field component: No travel outside of NYC.

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).]

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

Quality of individual written work (10%)

Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)

Feedback from the client (20%)

Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)

Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

Readings: Will be determined.

***Academic Integrity Statement*:**

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