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DSC 294

Final Paper

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When I first found this class in the catalog, it was a very last minute find and decision to enroll because I needed one more class and nothing else would fit into my existing schedule. I saw the topic "media editing" and really had no idea what it meant, but had a presumption that it was involved with the internet and editing of some kind. From the first assignment onward to the last, I was greatly surprised to the content of the class. Some of the projects such as the social network and life experience projects I never would relate to what my original idea of media editing was. It can encompass so many different things not just the Internet, but someone's life, a website, magazines, advertising, movies, music, pictures, basically anything can be a type of "media." All forms can be edited, manipulated, interpreted or distributed in so many ways.

The first three assignments stick out in my mind as great learning tools. The first project of photo editing was rather basic but very difficult for me since I had absolutely no previous training in Photoshop. I proceeded to download the Gimp software and experiment and found it not very user-friendly. I assumed it was a much "-dummied" down version of Photoshop; so I perhaps was getting an easier try. It was fun to experiment in a new medium however, which allowed me to recreate one of my favorite pictures from my trip to Italy this past summer.

The issues in the first project carried over to the next project which was the music editing. Again, I had no experience at all in this area, however it was really great to experiment with since I have a great love of music and have been always wanting to learn how to mix, produce and "spin" music. This allowed me to play around with audacity and Garage Band. These two programs are very juvenile compared to the amazing things one can do with sound mixing and editing. However, I originally had difficulties with audacity and scrapped that idea and explored Garage Band and was so happy to be able to make my own track

with electronic loops. This has since stuck with me and I have gone to create two new songs, which my friends and I feel are a lot better than my first. I would definitely want to build on this in the future and take advantage of having a lot of DJ friends to teach me the ropes.

The third project of creating and editing a movie was again a brand new exploration of media editing. I had absolutely no luck with Adobe Aftereffects and am already technologically slow. I decided to explore iMovie to create my own movie/slideshow with music. I had a lot of fun with this too. I found a common theme involving my love of music and two massive music festivals I went to this summer. It was fun being able to have the freedom like the first two projects to basically create a brand new media piece of my own from scratch. All three of these projects were great to be able to explore three editing areas I really want to become better at. I know for sure I want to learn Photoshop, and further increase my ability to produce, mix and remix movies and create film threads.

I particularly liked the social networking project. This gave me some time to think about my social network beyond my core group of friends, which I guess had always done. Social networking goes far beyond a group of friends; it connects the entire world, which is essentially at your fingertips thanks to the Internet, facebook and webcams. I really thought about many things to create my social network. The first part I thought my social network as my entire life up to this point. From when I was born to the cities I've lived in and major "nodes" of my life, which had "sub-nodes" off of there. For the last section I had myself at the center with everyone that I typically talk to via text messaging and then all of my family and whoever else knew each other was connected separately.

The Life experience project caught me off guard. I really didn't see how it would be possible or relevant to "edit" someone's life. It was very interesting though to explore. I found the easiest way to scour through thousands and thousands of picture clips was to find themes in the person's life. That itself is a type of media editing. Our day-to-day lives and how we live it is media, hence what was found in this assignment. I found themes in the person's life to display into photo albums. This project made me look at my own life. If I were wearing a

sense cam, I would love to see all the images that were taken and make some order or sense of my life and all the things that I do. The same idea can be transcended into other areas of life like school, work or family. More so referring to what the themes of all of those could possibly be.

The Intervention project was another great way to explore media editing. Basically coming up with a redesign of something already existing is a type of media editing. I really had no idea where to begin with this project. I thought of basically everything from the random to the complex and didn't really know or see what could be done to improve them. But I was doing an all "nighter" in the library and saw people getting things from the vending machine and thought that I really wanted some medicine for me bad cough. And my idea of an all-purpose vending machine evolved. The thing I improved on was the vending machine and I thought of a completely new realm that could be used for the machines that could cater to a new user. This was the travel industry and business professional who would need a last minute item at their hotel or before their meeting.

Also when I went to the lab to work on the life experience project, there were many other students that were in the Media Arts program. I was able to see what even more one can do in this field. Some of the students were creating sounds with banging objects or their hands or using their voices and the computer would capture these and translate them into different sounds. It was a different crowd to experience and appreciate

All of the projects that were completed in this class really helped illustrate to me what media editing is, was, wasn't, isn't and could be. I had my own thoughts of what it was coming in and was sort of right but mostly wrong. I had never really had a class like this in three years of college so I got to dive into something new that was refreshing from my usual classes. As a design major, the media editing class broadened my design awareness and creative possibilities in a something completely unrelated to Architecture, Interior Design, or Urban Planning. Exploring the Media Arts and Editing helped give me tools to use in other areas of school in the future and in my eventual career paths.

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