DCS 294

Media Editing

Throughout this last semester I was exposed to the various ways of communicating through different medias. This class showed me the different forms of media and how they can be edited. We touched on various topics and explored different areas of communication in society today. Communication is becoming more and more digitized making it faster, cheaper and easier to spread over a wide variety of people. The Internet and technology plays a huge role in the way we live today and understanding how they affect us is what we learned in class. Throughout this class we use some familiar programs like Photoshop and Illustrator and others programs like Audacity and After Affects were brand new to me. But after this class I feel like I have experienced the basics of all the programs and am left wanting to know more.

We started the semester with a Photoshop assignment. The assignment was to create a 2-demision composition using Photoshop. Along with the assignment the focus for the project was exposing the class to a digital photo librarys like Flicker.com and understanding the rules of copyright and creative commons. We learned how to get our work exposed via the Internet and how to protect it once its up. Creating the composition was the easy part. I have had some experience to Photoshop because of my major so this was an advantage. I used what I had learned in class to add three or four layers to a photo creating something new. I also played with the color making the background black and white and the subject in color to make it pop. The biggest criticism I had on the piece what the text, which made sense because the text was more of an after thought to the whole piece. Looking back I would have wanted the composition to be more text based and add more blending, a trick I picked up in another class.

Our next assignment we moved from visual representation to audio, creating a story or a place with just sound. For my piece I wanted to tell a story without any words. Give the audience the feel like they were listening to someone waking up in the morning and their routine of getting ready for class. Using only sounds found on the Internet I had trouble

using the program Audacity and couldn't get my idea across, so I had to use a more familiar program like Imovie to edit the multiple sound clips together. The only set back was I could only create a mono track using Imovie and it wouldn't be until later in another class I used Audacity again. I stuck with my original idea and just expanded on it. After learning the program a little better and using my own-recorded sounds like the light rail, I made a better copy of my trip to school.

After audio we added video to the mix and had to create a short audiovisual composition. We used a new tool After Affects that was a lot like Final Cut Pro, a program I was more familiar with. But after complication with trying to get my own footage I turned to one of my favorite sports snowboarding and used professional footage. I found After Affects very complicated in the simple task of trying to sync the music track to the video. So I turned back to my more familiar program Imovie and created the composition in that. I wish I could have had my own footage but the footage I did use where shots I could have never gotten myself. Just like the first project the main focus was not only the assignment but also the idea that there is a specialized field of people who only do title work for movies. Whether it's opening credits or the end title scene there are people who's only job is to create those scenes. This really sparked my interest because I have always had a liking for editing and special affects. I hope to keep learning After Affects because of the potential the program has.

Next we talked about social networks and the information they contain. I never knew how social networks like Facebook.com and Myspace.com could be studied and applied. After this module I had an understanding of how social networks can detect trends and also spread information quickly. The differences between strong ties and weak ones. The assignment for this module was to create and analyze our own social networks. For mine I analyzed my friends and rated them on how close I thought we were. I became interested when you think about factors like how often you communicate and through was forms. The way you communicate with someone I think is a big factor of how close two people are. For an example if you talk over the phone or face-to-face I feel like there is a stronger connection to that person rather than someone who only communicates

though text of emails. But I really enjoyed this module because it took an everyday think like facebook and look at the potential information it could hold.

Next came the interface design were we had to create or improve an existing interface. The interface could be anything but I choose to make a website radio that chooses the songs from you own personal library based on your mood. I got the idea from another website that sells music according to mood and combined it with a playlist application. I wanted the interface to be a beautiful scene of trees and grass that would change from nice weather to stormy according to the mood.

The last project of the semester we looked at a collection of photos taken by our subject Daragh and his sensecam. It was up to us to take all these photos that have been documenting were he has gone and what he has seen and to create something out of it. I created a few common themes I saw throughout the database like work, social life, eating, and what his sensecam saw compared to his hand held camera. I like the idea behind the project but the tools we had to use like Orison proved a headache. At first I couldn't get the program to work on my home computer and I couldn't use the ones at school but after some troubleshooting figured out the problem. Using the program I was frustrated with obstacles like only having one scratchpad and when placing the photos they never drop where I want and they always have a slight rotation. I address these problems in the feedback to Daragh.

Overall I loved this class. I loved all the topics we touched on and I enjoy editing everything from photos to video. This class only gave me a taste of what tools are out there, now I have the hunger and want more. Next semester I hope to take more classes in the digital culture program and hope to expand my skills with the various programs.