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Media Editing

Final Assignment

Deciding to switch my major into digital culture from graphic design was something I did not expect to do coming into my freshman year at Arizona State University. I always thought that graphic design was what I wanted to do with my life as I took many classes in high school that involved Photoshop and a lot of Adobe applications. That being said, I signed up for my courses and was excited about my studio course for graphic design. I was so happy that I was finally learning about what I was passionate about and what I was determined to do with my life after college. Classes finally started and I learned about having to buy a kit for my studio class. I went to the store paid my $350 for the kit and went to the next class with it. During that class, I found out that I would be cutting "perfect" squares for pretty much my entire freshman year. The look on my face must have been priceless as I thought in my head, "I signed up for this?" I can honestly say that I am not artistic at all unless I am at the disposal of a computer and the fact that the entire course did not involve a computer completely put me off. I used the kit once and blew $350 as I dropped the class the very next day. However, that $350 that I spent on my kit ended up not being a waste, but rather a blessing in disguise. If it wasn't for my studio class, I never would have stumbled upon the major of digital culture. After talking to my advisor and seeing what the whole major was about, I knew that deep down this was exactly what I was looking for. Unfortunately, I had to finish the classes that I took first semester before I could sign up for any digital culture courses.

When I was talking to my advisor before the second semester started, we went over the class options I had and what my path would be to completing the major on time. I saw the class Media Editing and it immediately jumped out at me. I saw that it was a 200 level course and was a little worried not taking any digital culture courses beforehand, but I figured why not take something that was appealing to me so that I do not end up in the same situation I did first semester. I was not entirely sure what the class was about, but my advisor told me that it was a

fun class. She also included that I would be able to see the multiple ways you can go within digital culture and see the potential jobs you could achieve with the digital culture major.

Finally the second semester started and I was going to my first week of classes. My parents called me to see how I liked my classes and one of the first things I said to them was that one of my professors talks in an accent and that she was from the UK. Of course my parents were not too thrilled that they are paying out of state tuition and I completely ignored their question and the only thing I could talk about was my professor's accent.   Although, when I got home for spring break, I showed them what I was doing in this class and they seemed pretty impressed at what not only what I was doing, but also the work of my peers. They liked to see what I was actually doing at ASU, but they also liked the fact that I enjoyed what I was doing and that I was happy with what I was doing. This class has truly helped me understand what I want to do with my life after college and has made me reassured that I made the right choice with my major. I liked the fact that this class was hands-on and that we had the ability to work in groups. Working in groups gave me a lot of ideas on what to do with my final projects for each module and gave me a different outlook on each project as everyone had their own personal touch to each assignment. My favorite part about this class was the fact that we explored so many areas within media editing not just focusing on one as it gave us a general idea on each topic.

Throughout this class we were shown examples within each module. The three modules that I found most interesting were Module 2, Module 3 and Module 7. Module 2 was the audio part of the class. Although my projects for Module 2 were not as successful as all the other modules, I found the example of the Grey album to be very interesting. I would listen to the album before this class, but after this class, my view on the album has greatly changed. I find myself much more appreciative of the Grey album as I now know how difficult it truly is to edit two songs together that are in two completely different genres. I always thought it was easy to mix songs together and that anyone could do it, but after experiencing it myself, I understand how hard it is and the amount of work that is put into a single song.

Module 3 was where we learned to edit videos and make our own videos. I found video to be interesting before coming into this class, but never really had an opportunity to work with editing video as my high school only allowed one art class per semester. After taking this class I found that video is something that seriously interests me and may actually become my main focus with my major. While I was completing the final video for Module 3, I found myself not viewing this as an assignment at all, but rather as something that I would do in my spare time outside of class. This was easily my favorite project out of the entire class as I created a video about my friend Preston Plevretes and how concussions are a serious problem in America. Creating this video drew some emotion out of me as I was reflecting on something that a close family friend went through and how it has dramatically changed his life and his family's life. I believe that this was the first time I actually had a strong emotional connection to my work and was able to share my work on YouTube so that almost anybody could view my work and hopefully take something away from it. Unfortunately I had to re-upload the video as I accidently deleted it when I was trying to delete another video off my page. The new link to my video is http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM7p4CLYqus and I hope that you will watch it again or share it with future classes, not because it is a good video, but because of the message that is within it. This project showed me just how much a piece of work can mean to somebody who has an emotional attachment to it.

The most interesting of all modules clearly had to be Module 7. After watching the movie **The Final Cut**, I was blown away at this idea of life editing. The thought that a little chip in your brain can record everything the exact way you see it was a little scary. It is a little scary because I believe that we are near the ability to actually create a chip like this in the next 20 years. This idea of life editing raises a question though. This question would be, whether or not something like this is ethical. Is it wrong to see someone's life through their own eyes and see things that they do not want others to see? Or is it a good thing as it can perhaps solve murders? Will something like this change the way humans interact with one another? These are questions that we will have to answer if life editing becomes something like in the movie **The Final Cut.** The assignment for Module 7 I found to be rather interesting and would be something fun to do. At least I thought it would have been fun. I believe that my experience

was a little tarnished due to the program that was used for this module. The program seemed to be very unresponsive, slow, and very inconvenient as it would never save the adjustments for the following chapter such as font size or font color. However, I loved the actual idea of the assignment and would definitely do it again if it was used in a different program.

Overall, this was the best class that I have taken at ASU and although my grade within the class may not prove that, I have learned the most in this class compared to any other class that I have taken. I have been exposed to so many new possibilities and many new programs that I now have experience in. What I found most interesting in this class was how somebody can create a completely different video than somebody else with the same exact material given to both of them.   This was when I realized that Media Editing is the way we perceive life. We will edit an image or a video a certain way because of the way society has influenced us. We are all from different places and we all have our own personal experiences whether good or bad, it is what makes us who we are and that can be shown through our works of art.