

In this class, I have learned countless skills which will help me blossom in my career of journalism creatively. When I registered for this class I had no idea of what to expect from neither it nor the type of content that would be taught. Your lectures were easy to follow and the sources you made available for assistance helped majorly. The main effect was when the skills you taught us were tested through modules. In the beginning, I couldn't understand and make use of the freedom you granted us to explore as I preferred detailed instructions that I was used to from my general classes; however, module after module and their presentations in class taught me the uniqueness we all had to contribute and that was beautiful. You instructed us to be creative and we reflected our identities through our work.

In module one which was based on text and graphics while using Flickr, was an interesting and easy start. I had played with photo-editing tools before for my personal use and that helped me in our first project; however, I wasn't familiar with Flickr and after working with it, I can say that it is a very useful tool. But I don't think I would use it much in my future. Another concept I learned was about giving attributions to our works and when using other people's creations. I have realized how important it is to include attribution and rights to a work even if you tweaked it slightly. I took it on a personal understanding, for example, if my work was being used for someone else's need then I would want to be attributed in their work as their work would be incomplete without my contribution to it in some manner.

In my first module, my experience through Photoshop was very difficult as I haven't used it much. But I tried Gimp and that too wasn't easy as I wasn't familiar with their tools either and their functions, and how to manage it all. I remember feeling very frustrated with the tools as I was exploring them because I had a vision of how I wanted my composition to look like but I didn't know how to create it to match that mental image. Flickr, however, was very simple and easy to understand and following your screen-shots was a piece of cake. Nonetheless I enjoyed exploring it and I hope to get more comfortable with these tools in the

future. I would admit that I already have used Gimp for a few of my personal photographs already and they look great!

In my second module which was to create an audio composition, was the most time consuming project at that stage. I felt like a music director trying to compile a tune through a mix of three other tracks. The amount of detailing and editing that occurred transformed me into a hair-pulling perfectionist. Using Audacity was entertaining and experimenting with countless effects was amusing. The biggest hurdle was realizing the sound I wanted to hear toward the end. Finally, the finished tune was close enough and I was partially satisfied with it. Using Soundcloud was a cool experience and I really liked their smooth set up. I have used Audacity in other modules for our class and I am sure to use it again in the future.

The video module is my favorite because it turned out to be exactly the way I had visualized it to be. I decided to go with a traveling show concept because traveling is my hobby and India is my homeland, and I assembled the two together. Being a journalism student, I decided to test my anchoring skills through this project and impressed myself. I had previous experience with Windows Movie Maker and so I used it to create this module. I sincerely wanted to use iMovie or After Effects, but I was unable to download and install them on my PC. In this module, I used Audacity again for the background music for the video. I chose Youtube to distribute my video through because I had previous experience in doing so and it is a great platform to upload videos on.

In the social network graphs module, I must admit that it was my least favorite assignment overall to create. Using Egonet was the easiest and most creative graph through my collection as I categorized with specific visual symbols to represent my social circle, for example, I used yellow circles for family and pink stars for close friends. Using Cmap wasn't hard but your reaction to the uniqueness to the family tree I created is very memorable to me. Overall, it was time consuming and my frustration with Cmap might slim its chances of being

used by me ever again. This wasn't an exciting module for me and maybe I may not use Cmap or even Egnonet, again.

The interface module was very fresh as we learned how it is incorporated in films and crime-fighting television shows for their research. In the beginning, I had countless ideas to choose from and this was the only module in which I was flooded with ideas while sitting in class! The only aspect of it that stumped me was creating a physical prototype of it to demonstrate in class. Finally, I chose to create EBM, Electronic Books and Magazine feeder to airline's entertainment list. During its production, I worked with Audacity, Windows Movie Maker, Youtube and rest of the skills I had acquired from this class into this project. I think I was successful in addressing the product's use as a solution to a current problem, spotting a target market and so on. I am confident that this idea isn't far behind to be enacted without my contribution. EBM is an asset to the traveling experience which I would want to have for myself as a flier for sure.

Our last project was using Orison. Firstly, I would like to say that the film shown, "The Final Cut" influenced me and I'm sure our whole class during the project's production. It's without doubt an interesting concept to create a short illustration of someone's life captures' in a visual method. Though the software remains raw in its performance, overall, it was a neat experience. I do wonder Daragh's reaction to all our albums, but I wouldn't participate in such an experiment for personal reasons.

Overall, the class has helped me obtain many skills that would be used in my future professionally and personally. You have been an influential professor whom I admire and respect tremendously. Your teaching style is very colorful and keeps your students engaged. Our class readings, modules, discussions, videos and your grading feedback has gifted me with a stupendous asset. I will ever be grateful to you and hope to collaborate with you in the future. I request you to keep our wiki's available to save its resourceful links. Thank you for the pleasure and honor of being your student!

