Documentary Journalism, Spring 2017
Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Jepson, Room G20
Robert Hodierne, instructor
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Office Hours: By appointment
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In this class we are going to produce 15-minute documentaries of such quality that they can be competitive in film festivals. This class will be divided into teams. Each team will act as a production team with different students performing different functions on the film. Each team will produce one 15-minute film. The first task in the semester will be to pick topics for the films. Each student is responsible for pitching a fully developed idea the first day of class.

A word of caution: The workload in this class tends to be light early in the semester and quite heavy towards the end. Plan accordingly.

Early in the semester you will learn to use the Sony PMW-EX1, a broadcast-quality, HD camera. Also early in the semester we will have a lighting lab in which you will learn the basics of three-point lighting for interviews.

Texts:
None

Videos:

We will watch each of the following documentaries and discuss them in class on the date indicated. All of these films are available in the library. Most are also available from various streaming sources. Please try to watch them at the highest possible quality because in many cases the photography is an especially important element.

Jan. 16: Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room

Jan. 30: Roger and Me

Feb. 13: The Thin Blue Line

Feb. 20: Amy

March 20: Undefeated

April 3: Four Hours in My Lai

April 17: Afghanistan: The Surge
Attendance:

In many ways this class will be more like a seminar than a regular class. But you must attend each class. Class discussion will be a major component of this class.

Grades:

Unless it is obvious that some team member has not pulled his or her weight, each team will be graded as a whole. Filmmaking is a collaborative effort. Learning to work as a team is a major part of this class.

Screening:

Our goal is to have a public screening of the finished films on April 21, the last day of classes.