Dear COM 117 Student:

Welcome to Multimedia Storytelling. You are receiving this letter because we look forward to your participation in COM 117 this fall, a required course for all Newhouse majors in addition to COM 107. In this course, you'll work in teams to produce a variety of short films that tell three different kinds of stories: stories that persuade, stories that document, and stories that entertain. Basic story structure is taught, as well as how to write and prepare stories for multimedia production. You'll learn digital videography and editing for sound and picture.

Whether you see yourself as a photojournalist, a screenwriter, an advertising executive, a television director, a public relations manager, an investigative reporter, or a graphic designer, you need to understand how to use story concepts and the tools of storytelling to communicate to an audience.

You'll be assigned a lab time to work with your teammates to edit, mix and finalize your projects. Each team is given time in class to screen its productions for fellow students and hear feedback.

For this class you'll need to purchase a portable hard drive before your lab during the first week of the semester. Audio and video editing require a lot of memory, and you'll need a substantial space to store your assets and projects. A portable hard drive will make it possible for you to work on your projects efficiently.

We require no less than a 500 GB portable drive and recommend a 1TB drive since this is more cost-effective and is a tool you will use throughout your years at Newhouse. It should be USB 3 and Thunderbolt enabled. You'll find some recommendations on our website: [http://nhpress.syr.edu/wiki/pages/g6f7W0o4n/Storage_Solutions.html](http://nhpress.syr.edu/wiki/pages/g6f7W0o4n/Storage_Solutions.html)

Note two important issues:

1. Whichever hard drive you purchase must be formatted for use with Mac computers. Its specific format should be MAC OS extended (journaled). You should plan to bring your hard drive to your first COM 117 lab.
2. You cannot use a thumb drive in place of a hard drive. Thumb drives are not fast enough for editing sound and video.

Also, you’ll need to acquire a domain name for yourself if you don’t already have one. We will discuss this in your first class. It is not necessary to do this before the semester begins, but you may if you prefer. (You do not need to purchase a hosting plan with this domain.) The cost of a domain averages about $7 per year (and up). You will use this domain in COM 117 and in other classes. It will be a valuable part of your portfolio during school and after you graduate.

Domain names can be purchased on the Internet. We recommend “GoDaddy.com.” Once you acquire a domain name, write it down so you don’t forget it.

Professor David Sutherland will address any questions at dcsuther@syr.edu. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
COM 117 Faculty