

# Spring 2026 ITLS-6215-IO1 XL Syllabus

## ITS      Digital Video Production 4215/6215

### Instructor

- Heba Abushanab
- Office Hours: You may schedule a meeting by emailing me directly to arrange a mutually convenient time.
- Email: a02472154@usu.edu

### Course Overview

**Credits:** 3

In completing this required course work, you can expect to gain a basic knowledge of:

- Shooting and editing digital videos on your own with intentionality.
- Moving on to advanced video production courses if you choose to.
- A perspective on the applications of video production in industry.

### Course Description

#### Quizzes

There will be no quizzes or tests in this class. Instead, we are adopting a qualitative approach to videography. Consider your discussion posts as an alternative to quizzes, where you will demonstrate your understanding and application of the course material.

#### Discussions

The discussion boards are designed for you to showcase your comprehension of the course content. Your participation here is crucial, as it reflects your grasp of the concepts we cover each week.

#### Video Assignments

You will have an assignment every week. Given the nature of these tasks, which often involve planning, shooting, and editing a series of video clips, I strongly recommend that you start early. Proper time management will be key to your success in these assignments.

#### Late Policy

Late work is ALWAYS accepted. Assignments and discussions will be docked 5 points per day. Assignments are out of 100 so even if you're a day late you can still get an A given assignment criteria are met.

#### Final Project

Your final project is due on August 3rd. Your final video project must meet the following criteria:

- Length: At least two minutes long.
- Audio: Include well-mixed background music and SFX.
- Composition: Utilize shots that follow principles taught in our classes
- Course Integration: Incorporate topics covered in class.
- Proposal Objectives: Achieve the objectives you outlined in your proposal.

The final project is your opportunity to demonstrate your cumulative learning, so be sure to align it with the skills and techniques we've covered throughout the course.

## Course Required Equipment

- A flash drive or hard drive with at least 128 GB (hard drive with more space is recommended)
- A video camera (a smart phone works, but a DSLR camera is recommended)
- Online students need to have access to editing software
- No textbook is required

## Course Resources

**Equipment Available** Cameras, tripods, and microphones

**Checkout From** Deidri Nielson EDUC 215

**Checkout Times** Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Camera checkout is available for students at the Logan Campus only and due back within 24 hours. You can checkout equipment over weekends, to be returned by Monday at 9:00 AM. Checkout is not available over holidays.

Please note, you are required to have your own video camera, even if it is a cell phone. There are not enough cameras for every student to check one out for every assignment. If you don't have a DSLR camera, you will be able to check one out for the few assignments where that is required. I recommend you get your own DSLR camera. There are some inexpensive used ones available. Unlike most textbooks, a camera is an investment you will continue to use throughout your life.

## Grade Scheme

The following is the weighted breakdown of course activities as they relate to your final grade.

Requirement Percentage of Grade

Assignments 65%

Discussion 15%

Final Project 20%

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%

Grade	Range
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%
F	< 59.0 % to 0.0%

## Class Standards

**All** are welcome to attend this class. In our class, we will be inclusive of everyone, including those with diverse backgrounds and disabilities. **You are expected** to be respectful and act as your best self. If you have any questions you can refer to *The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University* (<https://usu.instructure.com/courses/768315/pages/university-policies-and-procedures>), which includes sections on sexual misconduct, academic integrity, and students with disabilities.

## Ai

**Encouragement of AI Tools:** I strongly encourage the use of AI in this class, especially for tasks like ideation, scriptwriting, and other creative endeavors. As we discussed earlier, this course is designed with a focus on industry practices, and AI is becoming an increasingly integral tool in the field of videography. Utilizing AI can help you streamline your creative process, generate fresh ideas, and enhance the overall quality of your projects.

**Limitations on AI Use:** However, it's important to note that AI should not be used for everything. Specifically, AI is **prohibited** for discussion posts. These posts are meant to reflect your personal understanding and analysis of the course material, so it's crucial that your responses come from your own critical thinking and insights.

## Classroom Behavior

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5>) for more information.

## University Policies

### University Policies & Procedures

#### Appropriate Use of Canvas and Other IT Resources

Canvas and all other course technologies are information technology services provided as tools to further the mission of the university. By using these services, users agree to comply with USU Policy 550: Appropriate Use of Computing, Networking, and Information Resources (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/550>) and the accompanying Terms of use for USU IT ([https://usu.service-now.com/aggies?id=kb\\_article\\_view&sysparm\\_article=KB0015388](https://usu.service-now.com/aggies?id=kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0015388)) resources, as well as Article V-3.B.25.c (<https://www.usu.edu/student-conduct/student-code/article5>) of the USU Student Code. Using course technologies in ways that are inconsistent with the university's mission or are disruptive will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior includes any activity that interferes with either the faculty member's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.

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## Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/403>) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

## Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

*"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."*

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

## Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;

- Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (<https://www.usu.edu/student-conduct/student-code/article6>)

## Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

### General Overview

USU strives to provide an environment for students and employees that is free from discrimination (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/non-discrimination>) and sexual misconduct (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms>). If you experience sexual misconduct or discrimination at any point during the semester inside or outside of class, you are encouraged to contact the USU Title IX Coordinator via Distance Education room 400 in Logan, 435-797-1266, [titleix@usu.edu](mailto:titleix@usu.edu) (<mailto:titleix@usu.edu>), or at [equity.usu.edu/report](https://www.usu.edu/equity/report) (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/report>). You can learn more about the USU resources available for individuals who have experienced sexual misconduct at [sexualrespect.usu.edu](https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/) (<https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/>). Resources for individuals who have experienced discrimination are listed at [equity.usu.edu/resources](https://www.usu.edu/equity/resources) (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/resources>).

### Required Reporting of Sexual Misconduct and Threats of Harm

USU cares about our students and provides a number of resources and supportive measures to students who may be experiencing thoughts of self-harm or who have experienced sexual misconduct. To ensure students are informed about resources and services available to them, including available grievance or criminal processes for incidents of sexual misconduct, USU has implemented reporting policies and practices (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/340>) that require designated employees to report any information they receive about incidents of sexual misconduct. This reporting policy also assists USU with its efforts to prevent sexual misconduct and keep our campus community safe.

Under USU's sexual misconduct reporting policy, I am designated as a "reporting employee" (<https://www.usu.edu/civilrights-titleix/reporting/reporting-employees>). This means that if you share information with me about incidents of sexual misconduct (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Sexual-Misconduct-Terms.php>) (sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, or sex-based stalking), including within a course assignment, I *will report* that information to the USU Title IX Coordinator (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/Title-IX-Coordinator.php>). I will also share with you information about designated confidential resources (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/sexual-misconduct/confidential-resources>), supportive measures (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/Supportive-Measures.php>), and how you can file a report (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/report.php>) with the USU Title IX Coordinator.

Self-disclosures about sexual misconduct that you experienced are not required for your course work.

Similarly, if you disclose thoughts of harm to self or a threat to others to me, including within a course assignment, I will report the information to the appropriate campus administrators. I will also share with you information about the mental health and wellness resources (<https://www.usu.edu/aggiewellness/caps>) available to you.

## Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## **Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<http://www.usu.edu/drc>) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu) (<mailto:drc@usu.edu>)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

## **Students Who are Pregnant or Have a Pregnancy-Related Condition**

If you need academic accommodations related to pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, recovery, or other pregnancy related conditions, please contact the Office of Equity as early as possible. All accommodations related to pregnancy must be approved by the Office of Equity. The Office of Equity will then coordinate with instructors to provide accommodations. The University will not exclude a student from participating in any part of an educational program based on the student's pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions.

*Office of Equity:* Distance Education, Room 400, Logan Campus, 435-797-1266, Office of Equity: Pregnancy and Pregnancy Related Conditions (<https://www.usu.edu/equity/pregnancy-accommodations>).

## **Inclusive Excellence**

USU provides resources to help all students feel included as part of the campus and broader USU community. To learn more about the resources available and how to access them, visit the Student Affairs Office (<https://www.usu.edu/student-affairs/>).

## **Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Academic Grievances section of the Course Catalog (<https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=30452>).

## **Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures**

- Acceptable Use of University Computing Resources (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/550>)
- Academic Policies and Practices (USU Catalog) (<https://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=29998>)
- Student Conduct (<http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct>)
- Student Code (<https://www.usu.edu/student-conduct/student-code/>)
- USU Catalog (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/policy-library>)
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy (<https://www.usu.edu/policies/403>)

## **Emergency Procedures**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building via USU official communication channels. Those channels will be: an audible alarm, such as a fire alarm; an Aggie Alert notification; or notification by a USU representative. In the event of a disaster that does not permit enough time for notifications, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., when shaking ceases in an earthquake; immediately when a fire is

discovered or in the event of other immediate life safety concerns). If it does not inhibit safety, turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs. See USU Emergency Management (<https://www.usu.edu/dps/emergency>) for more information.

## **General Health Protocols**

The cold, flu, COVID-19, and other illnesses can have an impact on the health of our university community. USU welcomes the wearing of masks in all university buildings and encourages taking measures to mitigate risk as recommended by federal and state public health officials: getting vaccinated, staying home if you are sick, and frequent hand washing.

## **Mental Health**

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (<https://counseling.usu.edu>).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (<https://safeut.org/>) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.