

Software training for Journalism classes

Information for majors and pre-majors – 2010

Our approach to software and classroom education

Mass media are changing very rapidly, and the Journalism Department tries to provide the most up-to-date education possible, including training in software that the news and public relations fields expect in applicants for internships and entry-level professional positions.

Below is an outline of software training you'll encounter in your courses in the department. This list will, without doubt, change over time. The faculty feel strongly that we need to teach content and concepts in our classes and to keep introductory software training outside of class time. Within classes, though, instructors will often use a specific aspect of a software program as part of teaching course content.

How you, as a student, can prepare for classes

Probably the most significant step is to get training on your own ahead of time for three Adobe Creative Suite programs: InDesign, PhotoShop, and DreamWeaver. Other shorter, user-friendly applications are introduced during regular class sessions.

Where you can get training

- For J309 Editing, required of all majors and minors, specific sessions are set up for InDesign training during the first two weeks of each quarter.
- WWU's Student Technology Center offers training sessions for a range of programs; you can attend these or call ahead for a tutorial.
- Lynda.com offers tutorials on many programs and can be checked out at Wilson Library.
- Books such as the "Visual Quickstart" series or "Classroom in a Box," are excellent; you can buy these on your own and keep them for reference.
- Course offered at Western through other departments, such as Computer Science, Fairhaven, Communications and Art include software training.
- Classes at community or technical colleges are often less expensive and available during summers and in the evenings.

Which programs are required in addition to InDesign for J309

News-editorial and Environmental Journalism sequences: J450 Advanced Reporting requires GIS, a mapping program; students are required to complete an online tutorial.

Visual journalism sequence. Basic or beginning knowledge is expected for:

J305 Photojournalism, PhotoShop

J346 Introduction to Visual Journalism, Soundslides and iWeb

J446 Advanced Visual Journalism, DreamWeaver