

Old Westbury's Media Innovation Center Supports New Masters Certificate in Video Production



TV Station and Multimedia Manager Özgür Akgün helps MIC students calibrate a shot. Dr. Akgün has more than a decade of experience in multimedia production in Turkey and the U.S. He is completing a second Ph.D., with the University of Maine, focusing on shifts in film making processes and the changing characteristics of audience and authorship. Interactive documentary is more than a one-way storytelling form, he argues; it is a form of genuine social engagement.

With a \$1,000,000 grant from the State of New York, Old Westbury's Media Innovation Center (MIC) is poised for a major makeover that will benefit MALS students. Founded in 2018, MIC combines the College's legacy Old Westbury TV studio and its Collaborative Media Center into a new multimedia instructional facility. "Merging TV with new and emerging media reflects industry trends," says media professor Samara Smith. As a MIC co-founder and co-director, Prof. Smith is one of the faculty members

who will be teaching in Old Westbury's new *Advanced Certificate in Video Production* next fall. Prof. Smith describes MIC as an educational space, where students, interns, and volunteers take classes, collaborate, and gain hands-on experience in media production.

"Most people now have the capacity to make video with a smart phone in their pocket," Prof. Smith explains, "but capturing compelling images and quality sound, and then

Advanced Certificate in Video Production

Check out Old Westbury's newest graduate certificate. MALS students can choose the 4-course sequence for an Area of Study. Beginning August 2020.

<https://www.oldwestbury.edu/academics/offerings/advanced-certificate-video->

editing that captured media into an engaging, clear structure to effectively communicate an idea is complicated.” As the tools of media making become more accessible, teachers, activists, and people working in non-profits need media skills as never before. Skills students develop through the new *Advanced Certificate in Video Production* and available to MALS students will translate into opportunities beyond traditional media outlets.

“MIC is a resource for everyone at Old Westbury,” says media professor Laura Chipley, “it is a place of interdisciplinary collaboration.” Prof. Chipley, who will teach *Advanced Cinematography* in the certificate program, is also a MIC co-founder and co-director. MIC serves the entire campus community in a variety of ways. Prof. Chipley explains, “we have also created internship opportunities for Visual Arts students, who contribute motion graphics and design work to MIC productions.” Twenty MIC undergraduate interns currently collaborate with and tutor fellow students in field production and editing. Media lecturer Özgür Akgün observes, “our team members are coming from diverse backgrounds, from media communications to accounting, from biology to visual arts.” Prof. Akgün will teach the *Advanced Editing* course in the certi-



Professor Laura Chipley's creative work uses video, site-specific interventions and emerging technologies to explore potentials for human collaboration and to capture the social and environmental fallout from energy extraction. Recipient of the prestigious “Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art” from A Blade of Grass allowed Chipley to launch the Appalachian Mountaintop Patrol which works with West Virginians to use drones and video cameras to document the impact of mountaintop removal on people's lives, land, wildlife, and waterways.



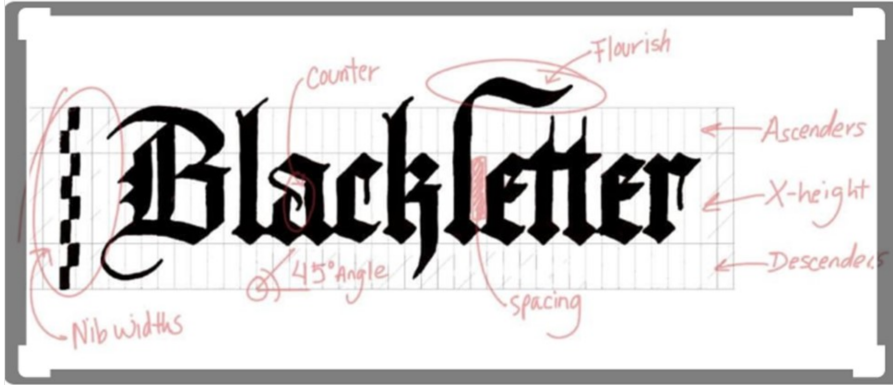
Professor Samara Smith designs site-specific projects in and about public space. Her works uses interactive and mobile strategies (such as locative games, SMS messaging, soundwalks and augmented reality) to invite participants to engage in the exploration of common urban spaces. Her work has appeared in sites around the country, in Greensboro, NC, Los Angeles, Manhattan's garment district, and the Queens Museum's Panorama, to name a few. Smith has extensive documentary experience, and credits on award-winning films.

cate program's second year. MIC hosts events, including video screenings and guest lectures by multimedia professionals, and students can join the *OWTV News* team, guided by visiting professor Lisa Payton. Payton, another key member of the MIC team, teaches advanced writing and media theory courses. She brings production experience to the job, having contributed production work to *Frontline* documentary films, acted as story consultant on the PBS film, *Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock*, and written for television shows such as *Girlfriends* and *Living Single*, among others.

To build their technical skills students in the *Advanced Certificate* program can check out equipment, attend workshops, and view online tutorials. “Most importantly, they also learn how to collaborate as they work in groups,” says Prof. Akgün. “We try our best to replicate real-life situations for our students so that they can understand some of the important aspects of real-life media production, such as working tight deadlines, developing problem-solving and critical thinking skills.”

The new makeover will enhance MIC's hands-on learning experiences in

Prof. Patricia Harris on the Cultural Meanings of Type



Professor Patty Harris, Visual Arts Department, lectured on “The Semiotics of Type.”

As Professor Patricia Harris explored in her lecture, “The Semiotics of Type,” historically, typeface has been freighted with meaning. Prof. Harris focused in on Blackletter, a German typeface derived from early monastic scribes. Prof. Harris explained that there are “qualities in the letterforms that are expressive, whether we are aware of it or not.” Her lecture navigated across time

and space to show how distinctive typefaces have communicated in particular moments. Blackletter has “hand in it;” you can see the artist’s handiwork. In the early 20th century Germans split, some embracing a cool, functional modernism, while others promoted nationalism via typeface. Noted designer Rudolf Koch argued Blackletter and related typefaces reflected the German peo-

ple’s mission,” and hence was championed by the Nazis. In contrast, the popular Helvetica, developed by Swiss designers, was embraced by corporations in the postwar era, a “clear, rational,” typeface that met the needs of a world upended by war and genocide. Prof. Harris will teach *VA6310 Case Studies in Graphic Design* in the fall for the MALS program.

Visualizing America, a Spring 2020 MALS Course



Students in Prof. Carol Quirke’s course, Visualizing America. From left, Ian Abraham, Imani Newman, Thomas Ferrone, Phabian Winfield, & Quirke.

The MA in Liberal Studies *Public Lecture Series* Presents ...

Dr. Llana Barber, “Latinx History is American History”

Thursday, March 26, 5:30—7 pm, NAB1100

On **Thursday, March 26**, at 5:30 pm in NAB1100 Dr. **Llana Barber** (American Studies) will present “Latinx History is American History.” Dr. Barber is the recipient of two major awards, the 2017

Kenneth Jackson Award from the Urban History Association and the 2018 Lois P. Rudnick Book Prize, for her book *Latino City: Immigration and Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-1990*. Barber’s talk will focus on the reality that



Latinx history is at the center of many key developments in United States history, even though Latinxs have been marginalized in most accounts.

OW’s Media Innovation Center (continued from page 2)

videography, film making, and TV production.

“We imagine MIC a hub of interdisciplinary and diverse ideas,” says Prof. Akgün. “I hope to see MIC as a living space that not only engages with our diverse student body, but also brings professionals to our campus, a space that would increase our collaboration with our community.”

“Video is a powerful tool,” says Prof. Chipley. The re-designed MIC facility, and the new *Advanced Certificate* will benefit “teachers seeking to incorporate video into a curriculum, those in the non-profit sector looking to raise public awareness about an issue or advocate on behalf of a community, as well as scholars, researchers and changemakers wishing to document the successful implementation of grant funds, as a means to secure future support.”

For working students, the *Advanced Certificate*’s flexible, weekend, and

online course structure puts these powerful tools within reach. *Advanced Certificate* students can use their newfound abilities to incorporate video documentation and new media practices in projects that include: scientific research, ethnographic fieldwork, digital humanities collections, public outreach and community-building activism.

Graduate students in the MA in Liberal Studies will benefit from the MIC makeover. MALS students may adopt the four-course sequence in video production for their “Area of Study,” combining their video skills with humanistic, liberal arts seminars in a range of fields as they pursue a master’s degree. *Advanced Certificate* students can, if accepted into the MALS program apply their courses to the degree.

Together, MIC and the new certificate program give Old Westbury’s graduate students a new way to make a difference in their communities, develop their creativity, and build professional skills.

To learn more about Old Westbury’s MA in Liberal Studies and *Advanced Certificate* in Video Production degrees, contact the Graduate Director, Professor Carol Quirke, by phone at 516.628.5024, or by email at quirkec@oldwestbury.edu.



MALS Courses

Fall 2020

AS6410 VIDEO PRODUCTION (14663) SMITH, SAT 10:30-2:30 BLENDED ONLINE/ON CAMPUS

EL6510 FOUNDATIONS OF U.S. LIT (13757) HOBSON, T 4:45-7:00

EL6520 FOUNDATIONS OF ENGLISH LIT (13758) CAMARASANA, W 4:45-7:00

HI 6510 TOPICS IN US HISTORY (13685) BARBER, W 4:45-7:00

HI 6570 TOPICS IN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION (14669) ANDERSON, T 4:45-7:00

HI6530 ECON: THEORIES, TOOLS & DEBATES (13771) DEL GUIDICE, M 4:45-7:00

HI7500 QUESTIONING GLOBAL HISTORY (13770) MARECHAUX, W 4:45-7:00

LI6000 INTRODUCTION TO INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (14297) QUIRKE, T 4:45-7:00

LI6300 INTERNSHIP FIELD PLACEMENT (BY ARRANGEMENT WITH GRAD DIR.)

LI 7990 INDEPENDENT STUDY (BY ARRANGEMENT WITH GRAD DIR.)

ML 6510 STRUCTURE OF SPANISH O’CONNOR BADER (13669) M 4:45-7:00 *IN SPANISH ONLY*

ML 6520 MASTERPIECES OF HISPANIC LITERATURE GONZALEZ (13670) *IN SPANISH ONLY*

ML PENINSULAR LATIN AMERICAN ART GUERRERRO ((13706) W 4:45-7 *IN SPANISH ONLY*

VA6310 CASE STUDIES IN GRAPHIC DESIGN (14653) HARRIS, W 4:45-7

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COURSES IN BOLD are specifically developed for students in the MALS program.

Remaining courses are open to MALS students on a space-available basis. It helps to register early.