

## CCC Journalism Equipment Guide

*For digital news, follow our classes on Twitter and Instagram #cccdigi*

**WHAT'S HOT FOR 2015:** We found this great [shoe mount](#) that allows you to attach your H1 Zoom recorder to a DSLR camera. That will free up your hands when you are shooting video and still give you quality audio from your Zoom.

Also, don't forget that the Journalism Department carries the mount that allows you to attach your smartphone to a tripod. See David Houle in the Journalism Department office (Suite 201). They are \$10, and you can pay with a debit or credit card. No cash. Students in RW2, Digital Storytelling 1 and 2, Smartphone Photo and Smartphone Video are required to have this mount for shooting video.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All journalism students **must** purchase a 1T (minimum) external hard drive. Students may not store any projects or files on department computers. Please plan to purchase before taking Digital Storytelling or Visual Communication. It is REQUIRED for both classes. The drive can be purchased at a discounted price with your Campus Card in [Columbia's Apple Store](#) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor (entrance on Wabash) of 33 E. Congress Parkway.

Hard drive specs:

1T minimum

USB 3 and FireWire 800 ports

7200 RPM

Drives should be formatted MacOS Extended (Journaled) for use with department computers.

**We strongly recommend that incoming undergraduate students purchase a DSLR camera for multimedia (photos and video). Although we allow students to use certain smartphones for multimedia, a DSLR is a better investment and will produce higher quality media. Students who invest in a DSLR will be more competitive for freelance and internships while studying at Columbia. Graduate students must purchase a DSLR. For reviews and comparisons of the Nikon and Canon cameras, please go [here](#).**

### LAPTOP COMPUTER

The Journalism Department has classrooms and labs equipped with the latest Apple computers and software. You are not required to have a personal computer, but it may make your life easier if you decide to work on your projects or assignments when our labs are not open. Having a laptop also will allow you to produce freelance journalism. For basic word processing and some limited multimedia, you can use either a PC or Mac, although most journalists in the field use Mac computers, particularly to produce multimedia. For students interested in broadcast or digital journalism, we recommend the Apple MacBook

Pro. While more expensive, Mac laptops are sold with the basic software and tools needed to edit photos and create video projects. We recommend the MacBook Pro over the Air because it's a better computer for the value, with a larger hard drive, a faster processor and more data ports. The Air is a streamlined version of the Pro. But it's not the computer for a student journalist to grow into as a professional. In other words, it is too streamlined for journalistic work. The Pro has the features that a journalist needs, particularly when it comes to multimedia. We recommend the 13-inch or 15-inch MacBook Pro for these reasons.

#### **APPROVED SMARTPHONES FOR MULTIMEDIA:**

iPhone 4S, 5, 5S, 5C, 6 or 6 Plus

Samsung Galaxy S4 or S5

Nexus 5

LG G3

HTC One M8

If you plan to use your smartphone for multimedia, you will need to purchase a [mount](#) to attach the phone to a [tripod](#). Please make sure [the mount you buy](#) fits your phone. You may not use your phone without the mount. The Journalism Department will have a limited number of universal mounts for sale for \$10. Please come to the main office to purchase. If you do not plan to record separate audio with your Zoom when using your phone for video, you will need to attach a microphone to the phone. The phone itself does not record adequate quality audio for multimedia projects. You can use the H1 Zoom or attach a microphone to the smartphone. Please consider purchasing a windshield. For mobile photo and video with your iPhone, you might consider a [Phocus](#) kit. You can attach telephoto lenses and more importantly purchase and attach a [shotgun microphone](#). The [case](#) attaches to a tripod so if you purchase one of the kits, you would not to buy a tripod mount. This is available for iPhone/iPod 4/4s and iPhone/iPod Touch 5/5S. PLEASE NOTE: YOU MAY ONLY USE ONE OF THE PHONES LISTED ABOVE. IF YOUR SMARTPHONE IS NOT ON THIS LIST, YOU MUST PURCHASE THE IPOD TOUCH OR DSLR. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **REPORTING AND WRITING 1 (53-1015) and COLLEGE NEWSPAPER WORKSHOP (53-1015A)**

All students enrolled in REPORTING AND WRITING 1 or COLLEGE NEWSPAPER WORKSHOP must purchase an [H1 Zoom audio recorder AND accessory pack](#). You also **must** purchase stereo headphones (NOT earbuds).

#### **REPORTING AND WRITING 2 (53-2020A)**

All students enrolled in REPORTING AND WRITING 2 must provide their own digital equipment and [tripod](#) from the approved list. Choose from the following:

iPod Touch (5th Generation)\* **OR**

smartphone from the approved list\* **OR**

DSLR such as the [Nikon D3300](#) or [Canon Rebel T5i](#). **Note: You may not use a point-and-shoot camera for video.**

*\*Students using a smartphone or iPod Touch for video must purchase a tripod mount.*

### **DIGITAL STORYTELLING (53-2230)**

Students enrolled in DIGITAL STORYTELLING 1 and 2 must provide their own digital equipment and [tripod](#) from the approved list. Choose from the following:

iPod Touch (5th Generation)\* **OR**

smartphone from the approved list\* **OR**

DSLR such as the [Nikon D3300](#) or [Canon Rebel T5i](#) **AND**

H1 Zoom recorder **AND**

external hard.

In addition, students enrolled in Digital Journalism must purchase a lav microphone such as the [Rode smartLAV](#) or [Audio-Technica ATR-3350 Lavalier](#). Some devices require an adapter.

For example, [this is the adapter](#) that you would need to attach the Audio-Technica lav microphone to the iPhone 4S. Please make sure [to research the lav](#) that will work with your device.

This is an [attachable microphone](#) for students using their smartphones to shoot video.

***For other courses, please refer to the syllabus. It is your responsibility to keep and maintain equipment after you've completed RW1 and RW2.***

### **VISUAL COMMUNICATION (53-2220)**

All students are required to have an external hard drive for this class.

### **SMARTPHONE VIDEO (53-1521)**

Students are required to have a tripod mount and tripod to take this class.

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

All graduate students must purchase the following equipment:

a DSLR such as the [Nikon D3300](#) or [Canon Rebel T5i](#)

[tripod](#)

[H1 Zoom](#) with accessory kit

external hard drive

lav microphone such as the [Rode smartLAV](#) or [Audio-Technica ATR-3350 Lavalier](#).

Some devices require an adapter. Please make sure [to research the lav](#) that will work with your device.

## **MOBILE PHONES AND HANDHELD DEVICES**

Journalists are increasingly using mobile technology to produce stories inexpensively and quickly from the field, delivering news directly to their readers and viewers through social media, mobile apps and websites. Mobile journalism is journalism produced through a mobile device such as an iPhone or Droid. Students who are interested in producing multimedia with a device without purchasing a smartphone or signing a carrier contract might consider the Apple iPod Touch 4th or 5th Generation. This is the preferred video camera that we recommend.

Although this list is constantly evolving, here is a selection of recommended mobile journalism apps for producing multimedia:

AUDIO: [iSaiWwhat?! \(Mac\)](#)

PHOTO: [ProCamera \(iPhone\)](#) [Camera Zoom FX \(Android\)](#) [Manual \(iPhone\)](#)

VIDEO: [FilmMicPro \(iPhone\)](#)

## **ONLINE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING**

Columbia College Chicago provides free training through [Lynda.com](#), which has more than 60,000 tutorials available for students to access for free. Video tutorials include Adobe Photoshop, iMovie, Final CutPro, Audacity and podcasting, iPhone and iPod Touch and WordPress. To access the site, go to [oasis.colum.edu](#) and log in with your Oasis ID and password. Click on the Training Tab and then on the [Lynda.com](#) link. For additional instruction, you might also search [YouTube.com](#) for tutorials.

## **PURCHASING**

Students may use financial aid to purchase required or recommended equipment. Please make sure that you budget properly for it when applying for financial aid. Students may use their [Campus Card](#) to purchase or order equipment available at the [Columbia College Bookstore](#) or the [Apple store](#). The bookstore does not carry most of our equipment, but in some cases, it can be ordered. For purchases at other retailers, students may use their refund check.

Students and faculty should consider a FREE membership through [B&H](#) for purchasing equipment. B&H sells new and used equipment at competitive prices. For more information, please sign-up [here](#).

*For questions about any of the equipment on this guide, please contact Prof. Jackie Spinner at [jspinner@colum.edu](mailto:jspinner@colum.edu).*