

VIDEO STORYTELLING: ONLINE COURSE

Gear Guide: Required Equipment & Software

To fully participate in this course, the following equipment & software is either required or strongly recommended. We suggest you practice with all equipment to become familiar with it before starting the course.

- **Computer**
- **Adobe Premiere Pro Software**
- **External Hard Drive**
- **Video Camera or Smartphone**
- **Headphones**
- **Microphones**
- **Tripod & Mounts**

Computer

All participants must have a computer or laptop for use during this course. Your computer must meet the minimum technical specifications outlined on the [Adobe Audition help page](#). If in doubt please reach out to Adobe directly.

Note: *It is recommended that you verify you are able to operate Premiere Pro on your computer before enrolling.*

Adobe Premiere Pro Software

A subscription to Adobe Audition Creative Cloud for a period of 5-weeks is required to participate in this course.

Information on how to purchase a subscription for one month is found here: [Adobe Premiere Pro Software](#). You will begin using this editing software during the first week of the five-week course. Keep this in mind when purchasing the license.



External Hard Drive

We highly recommend working off an external hard drive when editing in Adobe Premiere Pro. The external hard drive offers you flexibility and avoids slow down due to large files bogging down your computer's hard drive.



A few portable, bus-powered options with at least 1TB of storage are the [SAMSUNG T5 Portable SSD](#), or for faster transfer times the [SAMSUNG T7 Portable SSD](#). Evaluate your projects and editorial workflow prior to purchase to assure the equipment meets your needs.

Video Camera or Smartphone

You have a choice of several options for filming during the course. If you have your own video equipment, please feel free to use it. To level the playing field, we'll be showing you how to film video and record quality audio with a smartphone using the native apps.

A smartphone such as an iPhone or Android Smartphones with a great camera and the ability to record high definition video are no longer difficult to find they're everywhere. Even many professional video content creators are using their mobile phones to shoot video.



Headphones

We suggest good quality stereo headphones that connect directly to your laptop and the video camera or smartphone. You'll find many options available—we like the [Sony MDR7506](#), or the less expensive, but equally as popular: [Senal SMH-1000](#).



Microphones

A microphone is suggested for audio gathering, in-person interviews, and collecting ambient and characteristic sounds.

Remember choosing the right microphone is a personal choice and one that you will want to feel comfortable setting up and using. Many options are available.

When using a smartphone to collect audio, you'll want to have a handheld mic for collecting ambient or characteristic sound or for interviews with multiple people. The [IK Multimedia iRig Mic](#) plugs directly into your iOS or Android mobile device. The base of the cable also features a dual mini-jack connector to plug in headphones.



For interviews with a smartphone, a wireless or wired lavalier microphone works well. The [Rode Smartlav+](#) offers good quality audio and is easy to work with. To allow for an interview where the subject is further from the camera a TRRS extension cable is useful, such as the [Rode SC1](#). To allow for monitoring the audio with headphones or to plug in multiple microphones, the [Rode SC6](#) is a good option.



Rode Smart Lav+ | Rode SC1 | Rode SC6

Note: It might seem like all jacks/plugs are the same, but there are at least four different varieties of 3.5 mm plugs and jacks—each with its own purpose and application. You can tell them apart using the number of rings visible on the plug. Most microphones made for smartphone use come with a plug that has three rings or an adaptor. Check carefully when choosing the microphone for your model smartphone.

Tripod & Mounts

While a tripod is not required for this course, it is recommended if you plan to continue to shoot video with your smartphone or for that matter any video camera. Tripods and mounts are instrumental in securing high quality stable shots.



As a start choose a grip, glif or **mount** that attaches to the smartphone and then to the tripod. Depending on the mount you choose, the mount can be used alone to stabilize the shot or with a tripod. Our favorite for smartphone videographers is the [Shoulderpod S1](#). This handy device comes with a handheld grip that easily detaches to allow for mounting to a tripod.

The [Manfrotto Compact Light Aluminum Tripod](#) is a lightweight, easily transportable **tripod** for use with the smartphone. This tripod comes with the Manfrotto MCLAMP, to easily attach your smartphone to the top of the ball head. It also works with other mounts.



Another good **tripod** option is the [Manfrotto PIXI with the Universal Smartphone Clamp](#). This smaller tripod can also be used as a comfortable ergonomic handheld grip.



Final Note

There are many available options for equipment on the market. The best choice is the accessory or equipment that works best for you. We've chosen a few that have been used in the Berkeley Advanced Media Institute's in-person courses that have shown longevity and quality, over many years with many users.

***Lastly:** Products listed are not endorsements of said company or product and are for informational purposes only.*