

Jessica Vitkin

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina Wilmington, M.F.A. Filmmaking, exp. 05/2026

Loyola University Chicago, M.Sc. Digital Media & Storytelling, 2019

Western Michigan University, B.A. International Studies & Political Science, 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, UNC Wilmington

Spring 2026

OLLI, Mockumentary How! Documentary & Satire

Instruct original film studies class exploring the intersection of documentary and satire based on TV series *Documentary Now!*

Adjunct Instructor, Film Studies, UNC Wilmington

Fall 2025

FST 302, Intermediate Documentary Production

Taught hands-on practicum in documentary filmmaking, including idea generation, research, production and post-production, culminating in original student film projects.

Adjunct Instructor, University College, UNC Wilmington

Fall 2025

UNI 101, First-Year Seminar

Supported and mentored first-year students' exploration of academic ethics and strategies, information literacy, self-management, and effective group collaboration.

Graduate Instructor of Record, Film Studies, UNC Wilmington

Spring 2025

FST 302, Intermediate Narrative Production

Instructed core curriculum practicum in narrative motion picture filmmaking, including pre-production, production, post-production, culminating in original student film projects.

Adjunct Instructor, Film Studies, UNC Wilmington

Fall 2024

FST 330, Producing the Narrative

Took over instruction for final third of producing class, lectured on copyright and fair use, call sheets, producers' role on set, film festival strategy.

Graduate Instructor of Record , Film Studies, UNC Wilmington	Fall 2024
<u>FST 398, Mockumentary How! Documentary & Satire</u> Created original production class exploring the intersection of documentary and satire, threaded by series <i>Documentary Now!</i> , culminating in original student film projects.	
Adjunct Instructor , Film Studies, UNC Wilmington	Spring 2024
<u>FST 331, Introduction to Editing</u> Introduced technical, aesthetic and historical foundations of audio/video editing, using non-linear software to allow students to practice strategies in narrative, documentary and experimental editing.	
Teaching Assistant , Theatre Department, UNC Wilmington	Spring 2024 / Spring 2025
<u>FST/THR 335, Acting for the Camera</u> Assisted with production on assignments, including camera, lighting, audio and assistant directing, post-production editing, in-class student workshop feedback.	
Graduate Instructor of Record Film Studies, UNC Wilmington	Fall 2023
<u>FST 331, Introduction to Editing</u> Introduced technical, aesthetic and historical foundations of audio/video editing, using non-linear software to allow students to practice strategies in narrative, documentary and experimental editing.	
Graduate Teaching Assistant , Film Studies, UNC Wilmington	Fall 2022 / Spring 2023
<u>FST 201, Introduction to Film Production</u> Led hands-on production class familiarizing students with basic cinematic language, utilizing camera, lighting, sound and postproduction filmmaking techniques.	
Part-time Instructor , ESL, Kaplan International, Chicago, IL	2020
Taught international students in preparation for university TOEFL testing.	
Teaching Assistant , Humorous Memoir I & II, The Second City, Chicago, IL	2019-2020
Assisted with production of online non-fiction creative writing course.	
ESL Instructor , Sogang University Language Program, Yongin, South Korea	2014-2015
Created culturally relevant lessons for language learners ages 5-15.	
Part-time Instructor , Kalamazoo Public Schools, Kalamazoo, MI	2013-2014
Prepared and delivered ESL lesson plans to non-native adult speakers.	

Improv Instructor , Crawlspace Eviction Productions, Kalamazoo, MI	2012-2014
Taught short form/long form improv comedy techniques to children and adults.	
Part-time Instructor , Hispanic American Council, Kalamazoo, MI	2008-2011 / 2012-2014
Instructed practical ESL lessons to Spanish speaking adults.	

FILMOGRAPHY

Hard Work , Narrative Short (in post) Writer/Director/Editor	2026
Pas de deux , Documentary Short (in production) Producer	2026
One Golden Summer , Feature Documentary (81:00) Associate Producer/Research	2025
Leanne Morgan: Unspeakable Things , Netflix Comedy Special, (78:00) Production Assistant	2025
Gathering of Strangers , Feature Documentary (86:00 min) Assistant Editor/Research	2024
Shirley , Narrative Short (10:00) 1 st AD	2024
Happy with You , Narrative Short (11:37) Producer	2024
Getting In , Documentary Short (13:20) Producer/Camera	2024
FRAME-UP , Narrative Short (12:10 min) 1 st AD	2023
Brenda Gets Gaslit , Narrative Short (14:27 min) Writer/Director/Editor	2023

Hawaii International Film Awards – Winner, Best Student Film, 2024
Cleveland Arthouse Film Awards – Winner, Best Student Short Film, 2024
Dublin International Film Awards – Winner, Best Student Short, 2024
Florida Shorts – Winner, Best Student Short Film, 2024
RiverRun International Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
Chain NYC Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
Beyond: Cary Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
London Women Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
GUTTERCAST Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
Cucalorus Film Festival – Official Selection, 2024
Paris Women CineFest – Official Selection, 2024
Berlin Shorts Award – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Santa Monica International Filmmaker Award – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Santa Barbara International Movie Maker Awards – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Nashville Independent Filmmaker’s Festival – Semi-Finalist, 2024
New York International Women Festival – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Austin International Art Festival – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Chicago Filmmaker Awards – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Paris Lady MovieMakers Festival – Semi-Finalist, 2024
Blow-Up Arthouse FilmFest Chicago – Semi-Finalist, 2024

The Semantic Satiations of Sisyphus , Experimental Short (04:48 min) Director/Editor	2023
<i>Experimental Film Fest, New Bern, NC – Official Selection, 2023</i>	
A Fleeting Moment , Narrative Short (06:43 min) Producer	2023
Dear Kindred Spirit , Documentary Short (17:30) Producer	2023
Against the Odds , Feature Documentary (52:40 min) Associate Producer	2022
The South Commons Experiment , Feature Documentary (in post) Production Coordinator	2021
Romeo Santos: King of Bachata , Feature Documentary (1:32:11) Production Assistant	2021
Buddy Guy: The Blues Chase the Blues Away , Feature Doc (1:23:00), Production Assistant	2021
American Portrait , PBS/Radical Media Web Series 8 episodes, Director/Camera/Editor	2020
Finding Yingying , Feature Documentary (98 min) Research Assistant	2020
Dilemma of Desire , Feature Documentary (01:48:00 min) Production Assistant	2020
Flannery , Feature Documentary (01:54:03 min) Assistant Editor-PBS Shorts/Distribution	2019
Minding the Gap , Feature Documentary (93 min) Intern	2019

PUBLICATIONS

Research Assistant , Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, Chapter 12.	2024
by Dave Monahan & Richard Barsam, 8 th edition, 2024, W.W. Norton Company Researched yearly statistics for film, industry news, updates and predictions.	
A Filmmaker's Guide to Copyright & Fair Use , UNC Wilmington	2024
Created filmmaking resource for copyright & fair use including points on history, use in narrative, documentary, music & creative commons.	

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Community Based Learning Fellow , UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, NC	2025 - present
Create university engagement videos for current and incoming students.	
142 Seconds, Screenplay adaption , Nick Veronis, New York City, NY	2025
Adaption of story idea into feature narrative movie treatment.	
Ultimate Glory, Screenplay adaption , David Gessner, Wilmington, NC.	2025
Assisted in transcription and adaption of non-fiction book to episodic TV scripts.	
Technician , Cameron Art Museum: FLOW Event, Wilmington, NC	2024
Curated and screened exhibition of UNCW student & faculty films.	

Production Assistant, Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, Chapter 8. 2024
by Dave Monahan & Richard Barsam, 8th edition, 2024, W.W. Norton Company
Assisted in production of supplemental online material for section on acting.

Videographer, Nordstrom, Chicago, IL 2019-2020
Directed in-store product videos, maintained video, audio and lighting equipment.

Theater Manager, 55th Annual Chicago International Film Festival, Chicago, IL 2019
Managed multiple AMC venues, served as guest and crew liaison, facilitated filmmaker discussions, *Knives Out*, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Ford v. Ferrari*.

Research Assistant, Center for Digital Ethics & Policy, Loyola University Chicago 2019
Managed website analytics, event logistics, hosted/edited 'Digital Ethics Podcast'.

Intern, Kartemquin Films, Chicago, IL 2019
Communicated production and distribution needs for several award-winning feature documentaries, created and catalogued VHS archival database.

Storyteller/Content Contributor, The Second City, Chicago, IL 2017-2019
Developed and produced original humorous content for Judy's Beat Lounge, Personal Disclosures Podcast, and additional live performances.

Work Development Specialist, Jewish Vocational Services, Chicago, IL 2016-2017
Coordinated vocational training program for transitional high school students, conducted regular counseling sessions and employment workshops.

Communications Advisor, KT Care Foundation, Yangon, Myanmar 2015-2016
Aided in creation and implementation of Communications Strategic Plan for disaster relief, healthcare, and education focused nonprofit.

Improviser/Actor, Crawlspace Eviction Productions, Kalamazoo, MI 2008-2011 / 2012-2014
Regular public improv and sketch comedy performances, interactive storytelling workshops, corporate teambuilding, private event entertainment.

Program Coordinator, Michigan Works, Kalamazoo, MI 2013-2014
Proctored assessment testing and vocational skills workshops for individuals receiving state welfare assistance, created participant job newsletter.

Meshek Assistant, Kibbutz HaZorea 2011-2012
Cared for 70+ animals on small farm in international collective community.

Transition Rehabilitation Facilitator, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Kalamazoo, MI 2008-2011
Presented State of Michigan vocational program to IEP high school students/ young adult learners, scheduled testing and trainings for participants.

AWARDS, CERTIFICATIONS & DISTINCTIONS

2025	CHSSA Student Research Grant , UNC Wilmington
2025	Selected Presenter - PitchFest , RiverRun Film Festival
2024-present	Named by graduating senior as instructor who made, “a significant impact on them in college” , UNC Wilmington Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
2024	Graduate Research Travel Grant , UNC Wilmington
2022 / 2024	Dr. Ralph Brauer Fellowship , UNC Wilmington
2018 / 2019	Outstanding Student of the Year Nominee , School of Communication, Loyola University Chicago
2014	Professional Diploma , 100 hrs. Bridges TEFL/TESOL