

# Professional Practice

## JOU 3920

**Professor Mike Foley**

Master Lecturer

Hugh Cunningham Professor in Journalism Excellence

Weimer 3047

352-392-0410

[mfoley@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:mfoley@jou.ufl.edu)

**W**elcome to Professional Practice. (Our motto: “If you can’t get a job after taking this course, it’s your fault.”) Here are a few of the hard-and-fast policies of this class. Read and tremblingly obey.

**OBJECTIVE:** To get you ready to face the Real World after college. In other words, as your parents might say, “Get a job, and move out.” This course probably will be in the experimental stage forever, so we schedule on the fly. I hope to have guest speakers to talk about hiring, training and being successful.

**ATTENDANCE:** It’s less than one hour a week; show up. We probably won’t have class every week, so show up when we do. Keep an eye on your e-mail for schedule updates. Oh, yeah—if **you don’t come to class, you won’t pass.**

**GRADING:** This is a pass-fail course, so those are the two options—unless, of course, you drop. If you show up, do the work and participate, you pass. (Make sure you fill out a pass-fail form in the first week of class. If you don’t fill out—and sign—a form, you **won’t get a grade** in the class.)

**EXAMS, QUIZZES, TERM PAPERS:** There aren’t any. Relax.

**PROJECTS:** You’ll do two. You will produce a premium-grade, kick-ass cover letter that will cause a hiring editor to swoon. In addition, you will build a resume that gets you an interview. These must be done, ready-to-wear-in-public by the times the Journalism Advisory Council visits. Some of you already have versions of these. Terrific. We will use this stuff in our class critiques that will begin **Sept. 8**. Every student must turn in a resume and cover letter to be

critiqued. (Perhaps I should rephrase that: Every student *who wants to pass* will turn in a resume and cover letter to be critiqued. )

**ADVISORY COUNCIL:** You will have the opportunity to meet with members of the college's journalism advisory council. They will look over your job kits and give you advice. Much of it will be worthwhile. The council's fall meeting is **Sept. 28-30**.

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Let's not meet next week. I'm exhausted already.

**CRITIQUES:** Check your self-consciousness at the door. Wouldn't you rather have us, your friends, savage and ridicule your work instead of a strange hiring editor? We will begin in two weeks, **so I need your resumes by 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 5.** (Emailed as Word or PDF formats, please.)

**WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THIS CLASS?** Bring your questions, concerns, issues, suggestions for guest speakers, topics, etc. to class, and we'll try to find a way to work them into the schedule. (Since there is no schedule, this should be relatively easy.)

This concludes the entertaining and informative portion of the syllabus. The rest is all UF stuff that UF officials like to see in these things.

---

Lectures and materials in this class are the property of the University/faculty member. Lectures may not be taped without permission from the lecturer and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found in violation may be subject to discipline under the University's Student Conduct Code. I use this type size because you are young, and your eyes are still strong.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

The **University of Florida Honor Code** was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

Students requesting **classroom accommodation** must register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean will provide documentation to the student who must provide documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

# Professional Practice



It was a mistake for Eric to wear a t-shirt to his job interview, and it was a bigger mistake to wear that particular t-shirt.

**JOU 4930**

**Section 1E47**

**Fall 2015**