

FALL 2020

## **JOU4930 • DRONE JOURNALISM**

Special Study in Journalism – Drone Journalism, Class #21447

### **CLASS MEETINGS**

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LECTURE (*Asynchronous online Zoom pre-recorded*) Mondays available after 1:55 p.m.

LAB (*two hands-on flight training sessions*) Thursdays, to be individually scheduled.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

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Richard Shaw — richardshaw@ufl.edu I am available to meet on Thursday mornings via Zoom.

### **OVERVIEW**

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This class is a non-technical setting in which students from various disciplines within CJC may apply their individual emphasis areas, whether that be in communications, journalism or other fields. This experiential-learning course introduces students to the issues, applications and flight maneuvers of an evolving and promising technology: small, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as “drones” or UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles). The course is designed for those who are interested in learning to fly an UAS and how to apply them as a storytelling tool. It is not geared for engineering or training students in how to build and program drones, or design new equipment for drones. This course recognizes the evolving market of off-the-shelf drone technology, without hardware development or software configurations.

### **COURSE GOALS**

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- Basics aircraft components of professional-grade UAS radio-controlled systems.
- Overview of aerial applications across a variety of disciplines, specifically including communications such as journalism, public relations, film, advertising and advocacy public-service.
- FAA regulatory and legal environment, plus safety procedures and ethical issues.
- In-depth concepts of airborne videography and photography and maneuvering techniques.
- Hands-on lab flight experience beginning with basic maneuvers through skilled levels.

### **CANVAS PLATFORM**

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Canvas will be our central hub for the semester. I will use the site to post readings and quizzes.

### **TEXTBOOK**

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Gleim Aviation, ‘Remote Pilot FAA Knowledge Test Prep,’ 2nd Edition,  
ISBN 978-1-61854-191-8, website [www.gleimaviation.com](http://www.gleimaviation.com) (discounted for UF students)

### **ASSIGNMENTS POINTS**

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- Quizzes on readings (4) = 200 points (50 points for each quiz. 10 questions on each quiz.)
- Attendance / participation = 500 points
- Flight lab enthusiasm, readiness, effort, spirit = 200 points
- Drone video critique = 200 points

**Class attendance and participation = 500 points**

Two absences are waived during the semester, as a courtesy. No explanation necessary. Of the 15 weeks, there are 12 total class sessions. Points are accumulated for 10 sessions, each worth

50 points towards the 500 possible participation points. No make-up quizzes.

**Flight Labs** There are two individual hands-on flight training sessions, 30 minutes each, arranged on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Hume Field. Sign-ups to come.

**No Final Exam** The Drone Video Critique serves as the final assignment.

## FINAL GRADING SCALE

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A	1000 - 940	A-	939 - 900		
B+	899 - 870	B	869 - 830	B-	829 - 800
C+	799 - 770	C	769 - 730	C-	729 - 700
D+	699 - 670	D	669 - 630	D-	629 - 600

## COURSE POLICIES

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This class is categorized as a “hybrid” course. However, lectures are presented 100% online pre-recorded via the Zoom application. The two “flight labs” and in-person, one-on-one at Hume Field. This is an “asynchronous” pre-recorded class, in that you may view the lecture at any day or time during the specific week. Each week’s lecture will be posted each Monday at 1:55 p.m. with a link for the Zoom lecture. On Sunday evenings, the the week’s lecture link will close and you will not be able to access. Then on Monday, the next day, that week’s lecture will be posted. Your attendance will be registered and marked as “Attendance/Participation.” The four quizzes will only be available on those Mondays at the beginning of the class time at 1:55 p.m., for a 30-minute period. If you have extenuating circumstances or concerns on accessing the pre-recorded lectures, please contact the instructor.

Because of our lecture online learning format, it is essential that students are dedicated and focused. “Virtual” attendance from a distant venue can dilute the learning experience

Distractions can be tempting Therefore, I request:

- Attend via Zoom from a secure and stationary location that is free of distractions.
- Be on time. Join Zoom just prior to the start of class. I begin class exactly on time.
- Use your computer’s video camera for the duration of lecture.
- Listen well and be respectful when someone else is speaking.
- No phone calls, texting or web surfing during class.

### **COVID related practices:**

For **online zoom pre-recorded sessions**, the lectures are audio visually recorded for students. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

You will sign up for two **in-person drone flight labs** that will provide for hands-on flight maneuver and techniques. **There will be a sign up spreadsheet provided for available flight labs beginning October 8 - November 5, with 30-minutes slots from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday.**

In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain

physical distancing (six feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks.

- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. Find more information in the university attendance policies.

## RESPECT

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The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications Department of Journalism embraces a commitment toward an intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. We expect each of our journalism courses to help foster an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society. Furthermore, I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.) To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official records, please let me know.
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me.
- If you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, Joanna Hernandez, CJC director of inclusion and diversity, is an excellent resource. You can email her at [jhernandez@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:jhernandez@jou.ufl.edu).
- If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it.

Your entire college experience, whether during class time or during your personal life, should build habits and sensitivities that benefit your humanitarian values as a member of our democratic society. Empathy is expected for diversity of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, education, gender, politics, faith and socioeconomics, among many others.

As a member of our global community, your individual actions and words reflect on the College of Journalism and Communications, the University of Florida, your hometown, in addition to your individual moral character.

Respect your self-identity in a wise and dignified manner.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Students requesting special classroom needs must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to instructor.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

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### **Week 1 • August 31**

Lecture: Class overview & syllabus

Readings: UF Drone Policy

Flight Labs: none

### **Week 2 • September 7**

*Labor Day Holiday — no class!*

### **Week 3 • September 14**

Lecture: UF Drone policy

Flight Labs: Sign up schedule

### **Week 4 • September 21**

Quiz: UF Drone Policy

Lecture: Examples of drone use in journalism and communications.

Components of Unmanned Aircraft systems

### **Week 5 • September 28**

FAA Part 107 Overview

Readings: FAA Regulations

### **Week 6 • October 5**

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Regulations

Readings: Airspace

### **Week 7 • October 12**

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Airspace

Readings: Decision-Making and Emergencies

Flight Lab: Thursday, Oct. 8

### **Week 8 • October 19**

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Decision-Making and Emergencies

Flight Lab: Thursday, Oct. 15

### **Week 9 • October 26**

Quiz: FAA Part 107

Lecture: The Drone's Eye — Cameras for Airborne Video and Photography

Flight Lab: Thursday, Oct. 22

### **Week 10 • November 2**

Lecture: Basics of Airborne Videography

Assigned: Drone Video Critique

Readings: Laws & Ethics

Flight Lab: Thursday, Oct. 29

### **Week 11 • November 9**

Quiz: Airborne Videography

Lecture: Laws and Ethics —

Trespassing and privacy issues

Readings: Laws & Ethics

Flight Lab: Thursday, Nov. 5

### **Week 12 • November 16**

Lecture: Laws and Ethics —

Dealing with the public and local law enforcement authorities

Due: Drone Video Critiques URLs to Canvas

### **Week 13 • November 23**

Quiz: Laws and Ethics

*No lecture. Course concludes after taking the quiz.*