

News Writing, Editing and Performance for the Web

Course Description

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of writing, editing and anchoring online newscasts. Students will learn to write factually correct, objective, concise news stories that offer both timely information and context. They will develop sound news judgment and strong newsgathering skills. They will learn to gather video elements for their newscasts and edit the newscasts appropriately to post online. And they will learn appropriate anchoring skills and understand the importance of professional and credible on-air performance. The course is comprised of class lecture/exercises and newsroom lab work that will include writing, editing and anchoring of webcasts.

Course Objective

To give students the skills to originate, research and write clear, compelling, and timely news stories in a deadline environment. To give students the skills to edit all video elements for their newscast and prepare the newscast for posting online. And to give students the skills to deliver these stories in a professional, credible manner to an online audience.

Learning Objectives

- To investigate journalistic principles such as integrity, fairness, and balance
- To investigate ethical challenges and develop ethical standards
- To develop strong news judgment skills
- To learn to gather information and conduct research for news stories
- To learn to evaluate credibility of sources and potential conflicts of interest
- To write strong news leads and concise, accurate stories on deadline
- To develop strong on-set performance skills
- To develop video editing skills for online newscasts

Required text

None required – students will be assigned readings relevant to course objectives

UF Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. 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.”

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

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

Link to UF’s Grading Policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Cell Phones and Computer Use in Class:

As a matter of courtesy to your instructor and classmates, please turn off all cell phones before the start of class. Likewise, all computers should remain off unless you are specifically requested to turn them on for a class assignment. It is not appropriate to instant message during class.

Accommodations For Students With Disabilities:

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

Instructor Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online 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>.

One Important Note:

No food or drink is ever allowed in the classrooms or labs. Spills can be disastrous for computers and editing equipment. If you are found with food or drink in the labs, you will be asked to leave immediately and your grade will be affected.