

## **RTV 3304: RADIO NEWS 2**

### **Spring 2017 – University of Florida**

Instructor: Ryan Vasquez  
Office: Weimer 2325  
Email: rvasquez@wuft.org  
Phone: 352-294-1500  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
(and by appointment)

RTV 3304 is an advanced radio reporting class designed to improve storytelling and production techniques by practicing in-depth reporting at a higher level. The course emphasizes that there is more to electronic journalism than just the basic facts of “who, what, where, and when” as we seek to focus more on the “why” and “how” in the stories we tell.

The work done in your weekly newsroom shifts will primarily be aired on WUFT-FM in our morning and afternoon feature segments. You may also have the opportunity to serve as a correspondent on WUFT-TV’s evening newscast “WUFT First at Five” to cross-promote and present coverage of stories you’ve produced. You are also expected to produce web versions of your stories that will be published on the WUFT.org website.

Building on what you learned in RTV 3303 (Radio News 1), you will now spend time producing longer news pieces that delve deeper into the issues beyond a typical sound story or wrap that would be featured in an hourly newscast. These long-form pieces will vary in length from 3 to 5 minutes and should feature a variety of natural sound and interview sources.

You will learn digital editing in Adobe Audition, which allows for more sophisticated production techniques, including more intricate incorporation of natural sound in your pieces. All stories will require photos that can be featured on our website. In most cases, you will be asked to use video cameras (e.g. Flip Cams, smart phones, etc.) for multimedia coverage.

There may come a need to implement weekly current event quizzes on national and local/regional news reported on the WUFT.org website as well as other news outlets based on class news consumption. You will be allowed to drop one quiz grade for the semester. A quiz can only be made up due to sickness (with documentation from a physician) or a family emergency (with appropriate documentation). This will replace your class participation or 10% of your grade. Don’t take it too lightly – it can make the difference on your final grade if your average is teetering on a letter grade borderline.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Objectives and goals of the course include:

- (1) writing radio feature stories acceptable for on-air use
- (2) becoming proficient with the Adobe Audition editing software
- (3) creating an opportunity and an expectation that work produced for the class and the newsroom can and will be used on-air and on the web
- (4) providing an opportunity to voice your work, live or recorded, to be aired on WUFT-FM
- (5) gaining a better understanding of local and regional news and current events
- (6) developing an understanding of web research and producing content for the web
- (7) developing a better understanding of the roles and duties of radio positions in a professional newsroom, including multimedia aspects

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Kern, Jonathan. *Sound Reporting: the NPR guide to audio journalism and production*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

## **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

Equipment will be provided for you by the College. Equipment used during a newsroom shift should be checked out in the newsroom by a news manager, whereas equipment used for projects should be checked out via Steve Kippert in the equipment room in Weimer G020.

All equipment must be returned in a timely fashion in the same condition as it was checked out, per the established student/course access policies. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in suspension of equipment checkout privileges. Students who check out gear are also responsible for paying for any damage to equipment beyond normal professional wear and tear, etc. See the equipment policy for full details.

## **GENERAL CLASSROOM RULES**

Please arrive on time to class. We will begin class with current events quizzes each week, so consider that incentive to not be late! If you arrive late, settle in with minimum disturbance. PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE DURING CLASS. That means no texting, social media, etc.

A course grade of incomplete will be permitted only for serious illness documented by a physician. A timetable for completing the coursework must be set before the incomplete is given.

## **DISABILITY AWARENESS**

Students with Disabilities who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented. DRC is located in room 001 in Reid Hall or you can contact them by phone at 352-392-8565.

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL HONESTY**

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, (352) 392-1261.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

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>.

## **GRADING**

A	94-100%
<u>A-</u>	<u>90-93.95</u>
B+	87-89.85
B	84-86.95
<u>B-</u>	<u>80-83.95</u>
C+	77-79.95
C	74-76.95
<u>C-</u>	<u>70-73.95</u>
D+	67-69.95
D	64-66.95
<u>D-</u>	<u>60-63.95</u>
E	Below 60

For more information about minus grades and UF grading policies, visit <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1415/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## **GRADE EVALUATION**

Newsroom shifts	30%
Projects	50%
Class Participation/CE Quizzes	10%
Multi-platform participation	10%

## **NEWSROOM SHIFTS**

**You are required to work at least 90 hours in the newsroom for this class (one 6-hour shift per week for 12 weeks).** The additional week of newsroom shifts is in lieu of a final exam.

We say “at least” because in the news business there are times when you have to work longer than the minimum. Nobody likes it, but that’s the nature of the business. Don’t be shocked if you have to stay a little beyond quitting time to finish up a re-write or do an interview. That being said, this won’t always be the case.

The goal is to learn how to produce and provide for newscasts and other on-air content. You will work with Radio Ones and other volunteers to help create this content. You must check-in with a news manager at the beginning of your shift (Forrest Smith in the mornings or Ryan Vasquez in the afternoons).

The only acceptable excuse for missing a newsroom shift is illness or an immediate family emergency backed up with proper documentation. You are permitted to switch shifts with instructor approval, and you are required to make up any missed shifts. **An unexcused absence on a news shift is penalized by a letter grade deduction on**

**your final average.** The same applies to deadlines for projects, which are due at the start of class; you project will drop a letter grade if it is late. That's not fun, so don't do it!

## **PROJECTS**

During the semester you will be responsible for a total of 4 projects: 2 produced radio features that run 3 to 5 minutes, 1 multi-platform project and 1 three-part series with a multi-media element. These will be features you do entirely on your own, outside of your regular newsroom shift. They are intended to demonstrate your grasp of writing and production skills.

The requirements are as follows:

- (1) the stories must be original, undated work and may not incorporate sound or any material gathered during your newsroom shift
- (2) the stories should include *at least six* sound bites from at least **three** different sources
- (3) the stories should include *at least three* pieces of natural sound
- (4) You cannot turn in the same projects for Radio 2 and another Telecommunication course. This will result in a ZERO for the project.**

Projects should be handed in on a CD or on a memory stick with a paper copy of the script (including an anchor intro and tag).

Each project will be graded accordingly:

Audio quality	30%
Writing/organization	25%
Newsworthiness	25%
Production	20%

The “audio quality” portion of the grade will include delivery and the quality/variety of the bites and natural sound. The “production” portion will include audio levels, fades, mixing, etc. There should be **NO phone sound of anyone who works or lives in Alachua County or within an hour's drive.** Exceptions must be approved before the project is submitted.

Natural sound cannot be taken from sound effect recordings and must be work gathered from the field. It must not be “created” for the projects—that is deceptive, inaccurate reporting. The sound must come from actual events/sounds occurring as you are recording. **Any violation of this policy will result in a ZERO on the project.**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Note: I believe the semester plan outlined in the calendar is realistic. Nonetheless, I reserve the right to adjust the course content and scheduling based on the class's ability to maintain pace.

### **Date Topic Readings Due**

5/10 Introduction, Finding Stories and Feature Reporting

5/17 Editing with Adobe Audition (Pt. 1)

### **PITCH PROJECT 1**

5/24 Editing with Adobe Audition (Pt. 2)

Discuss semester-long Multimedia Series

5/31 Storytelling (class exercise)

*Potential Guest Speaker*

6/07 **PROJECT 1 DUE**

### **PITCH PROJECT 2**

6/14 Producing

*Potential Guest Speaker*

6/21 NO CLASS – SUMMER BREAK

6/28 **PROJECT 2 DUE**

### **PITCH PROJECT 3**

7/05 Ethics

7/12 Web and Multimedia

*Potential Guest Speaker*

7/19 **PROJECT 3 DUE**

### **3-PART SERIES CHECK IN**

7/26 Multimedia Project Work Day

8/02 **3-PART SERIES/MULTIMEDIA PROJECT DUE**