

**RTV 4930 – 112F**  
**Entertainment Storytelling**  
**Fall 2017**



**INSTRUCTOR**

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**COURSE:**

Weimer Hall 1090  
Monday, Periods 6-8

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Entertainment is a broad category that includes a diverse array of topics such as leisure, music, art, nature, theatre, food, and various indoor and outdoor activities. In this class you will have the opportunity to cover a variety of activities and produce multimedia stories that cover these areas. The stories you produce will focus on events and local points of interest in Gainesville and North Central Florida.

Students will produce multimedia stories throughout the semester covering local events which will be published online and promoted through social media channels. The goal for this course is to provide students an outlet to produce and publish creative stories that often go overlooked or cover local attractions that showcase North Central Florida.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of this course, students will

1. Demonstrate an acceptable proficiency in entertainment and leisure storytelling for online media
2. Develop a portfolio of story samples
3. Gain an understanding of how to create entertainment stories for a local audience
4. Develop greater media literacy through the creation of content
5. Critique the work of others
6. Build an audience using social media
7. Measure the effectiveness of a story through a basic understanding of Google Analytics

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

- **Required texts: None**
- **lynda videos or Google certifications as assigned**

**MY ROLE AS THE INSTRUCTOR:**

My role as the instructor is to act as content editor and final gatekeeper of stories that are published and shared. I will take responsibility of editing all stories and publish all social media posts using platforms created for this course. In addition, I will grade all work and provide timely feedback to assist in improving future stories in the class.

## **Grading**

Bio with photo	5%
lynda video courses	10%
Weekly story meetings and pitches	15%
Instagram story	10%*
TWO location stories	30%*
TWO event stories	30%*

\* NOTE: there are no due dates for these assignments. But ONE location story and ONE event story must be completed by WEEK NINE as well as Instagram Story

Your grades will be posted to Canvas at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

## **Grading Scale**

A	(93-100)
A-	(90-92)
B+	(87-89)
B	(83-86)
B-	(80-82)
C+	(77-79)
C	(73-76)
C-	(70-72)
D+	(67-69)
D	(63-66)
D-	(60-62)
E	(below 60)

## **Assignments**

Completion of assignments and posting them to the class website are the two most important aspects of the assignments for this class.

Outside of following directions and mechanics, stories will be graded on creativity. Creativity is hard to measure. Each assignment will be judged on its own merit. I encourage creativity.

Establish your own voice. It's the ONLY way to get noticed in a competitive environment.

### **A bio on the website (5%)**

The stories you do for this class will go on our website. On the website there will be a page for you to provide your bio and a photo. This is important because you should all be thinking about how to brand yourself and part of that is to have an appropriate headshot you can use for when people look for you on the web and to use on your various social media channels. It is also important to be able to describe yourself and what you do in a paragraph.

### **Lynda Video Courses and Google Certification (10%)**

Throughout the semester, you will be assigned Lynda courses to complete and one Google Analytics for Beginners certification. These videos will provide instruction on various digital storytelling techniques as well as using WordPress. It will be your responsibility to complete each as assigned (see Course Schedule). Upon completion of each course, you should include the completed certification on your LinkedIn account AND share a screenshot with your instructor.

### **Instagram Story (10%)**

You will need to create one visual story of between Three to Five images that will be posted to our Instagram account. Story ideas will need to be pitched and approved. Included in the story will be images from the event that you cover as well as a description, geolocation information, and relevant hashtags. Your instructor will post quality stories/images to the Instagram account. While you can take video for this assignment in addition to the photos, the assignment is photo only.

### **Two location stories (30%)**

You will each cover TWO local points of interest in Gainesville and North Central Florida. Story ideas will need to be pitched and approved. Each story will include text and accompanying photos. This is a 300-400 word story about a local site/point of interest. You will need to do some research on the site to write 300-400 words which means you will need to find out more on the Internet (and therefore include appropriate hyperlinks in the story), and talk to people who run/own the site so you can provide quotes for your story. This story should highlight a location that people would want to see when visiting North Central Florida. It will not be for a specific event but something open during the year for locals and visitors. Include as many photos as appropriate to showcase the site. You may also include video of the location. Stories will be uploaded to the WordPress site and approved by the instructor. You should also create TWO tweets about the story that can be shared through our Twitter account.

### **TWO event stories (20%)**

You will cover TWO local events in North Central Florida. Story ideas will need to be pitched and approved. Each story will have two parts.

First, you must write 150-250 words as a preview story for the event. The preview should include at least one relevant photo. You will need to do some research about the event to write 150-250 words which means you will need to find out more on the Internet (and therefore include appropriate hyperlinks in the story), and talk to people who run the event or attended previously.

Second, you will need to write a story about the event after it is over. The event story will be between 300-450 words. You will need to attend the event, interview attendees, take multiple photos, and you may want to record some video. Stories will be uploaded to our site and approved by the instructor.

You will also create TWO tweets for the preview story and the event story that can be shared through the class Twitter account.

You want to be able to show the event for an audience that that did not attend and for an audience that did attend. This requires describing the event through text and showing the event through photos.

## **CLASS RULES!**

Punctuality is of utmost importance in the media industry. Late assignments will be penalized.

### **LATE WORK**

Less than 24 hours – Ten Points Off

24 to 48 Hours – 25 Points Off

48 hours to One Week – 50 points off

No work later than One Week will be accepted.

The best way to learn how to produce media pieces is to produce them. For this reason, much of your class time will be spent reviewing ways to produce better pieces and how to improve the pieces you create.

**Attendance:** The class will start promptly, if you come in late or have to leave early, please do so quietly without disturbing others in the class. Attendance in class is critically important to pitch stories, review work, and review the work of others in the class.

Excused absences include approved UF attendance exceptions or documented illness.

For excused absences, provide documentation to your instructor for the reason you missed class within 24-hours of the time of the missed class. In instances of excused absences the instructor and student will work out a plan for completing missed work. You will not be able to make up work due to an excused absence, but your grade will be entered as a blank and it will neither help nor hurt your grade.

For any missed work due to an unexcused absence, you will need to work out a plan for completing the missed work but there will be a 25% penalty.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies which can be found in the online catalog at:

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

### **Prerequisites**

A grade of C or better in RTV 2100 or JOU 3101.

### **University Honor Code**

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.

There are six specific types of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication. Naturally, plagiarism and any form of cheating are unacceptable. If I find you've cheated – on any assignment – you will be dismissed from the course. Take this commitment to academic honesty and integrity seriously.

### **Addendums and Changes**

During this course, I reserve the right to amend and change the syllabus, readings, and assignments. If I change a date and you miss the announcement because you were absent you may not make up that assignment.

### **University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:**

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

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.

University counseling services and mental health services:

Counseling and Wellness resources

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

352-392-1575

### **U Matter, We Care:**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575.

The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

### **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>

### **Class Demeanor:**

Mastery in this class requires preparation, passion, and professionalism. Students are expected, within the requirements allowed by university policy, to attend class, be on time, and meet all deadlines. Work assigned in advance of class should be completed as directed. Full participation in online and live discussions, group projects, and small group activities is expected.

My role as instructor is to identify critical issues related to the course, direct you to and teach relevant information, assign appropriate learning activities, create opportunities for assessing your performance, and communicate the outcomes of such assessments in a timely, informative, and professional way. Feedback is essential for you to have confidence that you have mastered the material and for me to determine that you are meeting all course requirements.

At all times it is expected that you will welcome and respond professionally to assessment feedback, that you will treat your fellow students and me with respect, and that you will contribute to the success of the class as best as you can.

## **University Policy on Academic Misconduct:**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>

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## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

All students in the College of Journalism and Communications are expected to conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they know and understand the requirements of every assignment. At a minimum, this includes avoiding the following:

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism occurs when an individual presents the ideas or expressions of another as his or her own. Students must always credit others' ideas with accurate citations and must use quotation marks and citations when presenting the words of others.

**Cheating:** Cheating occurs when a student circumvents or ignores the rules that govern an academic assignment such as an exam or class paper. It can include using notes, in physical or electronic form, in an exam, submitting the work of another as one's own, or reusing a paper a student has composed for one class in another class. If a student is not sure about the rules that govern an assignment, it is the student's responsibility to ask for clarification from his instructor.

**Misrepresenting Research Data:** The integrity of data in mass communication research is a paramount issue for advancing knowledge and the credibility of our professions. For this reason any intentional misrepresentation of data, or misrepresentation of the conditions or circumstances of data collection, is considered a violation of academic integrity. Misrepresenting data is a clear violation of the rules and requirements of academic integrity and honesty.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Each week in class we will review completed stories and you will pitch stories for assignments. While you may produce more stories than required for the class, you must complete all work in this class, and all stories will need to be pitched and approved. Any changes to your story idea must be approved first. Think of class like a morning meeting at a newsroom. We will discuss the work for the week that needs to be accomplished and discuss our success from the previous week. This class follows the motto, “Learn by doing.” So that is what we will be doing.

We may during the semester have guest speakers to discuss multimedia storytelling or local events and cultural sites. This is why it is so important to attend every class in addition to pitching your stories and critiquing stories from others.

### **Week One – 8/21**

Course and Syllabus introduction  
We will discuss class accounts including WordPress, Twitter, and Instagram

### **Week Two – 8/28**

Decisions on class accounts  
Brainstorming story ideas  
Lynda Course: [The basics of storytelling](#)

### **Week Three – 9/4**

**NO CLASS – LABOR DAY...** so get to work

### **Week Four – 9/11**

Story Pitches  
Lynda Course: [Insights on Photojournalism](#)

### **Week Five – 9/18**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories  
Lynda Course: [Writing Headlines](#)



**Week Six – 9/25**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

Lynda Course: [Creative Photography Techniques](#)

**Week Seven – 10/2**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

Google Analytics Course: [Google Analytics for Beginners](#)

**Week Eight – 10/9**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

Lynda Course: [What is social media marketing?](#)

**Week Nine – 10/16**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

**Week Ten – 10/23**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

Reference: [A step-by-step guide to shooting iPhone video](#)

**Week Eleven – 10/30**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

Reference: [How your brain maps stories \(with video\)](#)

**Week Twelve – 11/6**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

**Week Thirteen – 11/13**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

**Week Fourteen – 11/20**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

**Week Fifteen – 11/27**

Story Pitches  
Review Stories

**Week Sixteen – 12/4**

Review semester stories