

News Writing, Editing and Performance for the Web

RTV 4930 (Sect 11G4) Hours: TBA

Meet: Innovation News Center (INC), Weimer Hall 2nd Floor

Instructor: Harrison Hove

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Office Hours: T, W, R 1-2pm in Weimer 2309 (inside the INC), or by appt.

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 by contributing to the INC's News in 90 product. 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 two mandatory training sessions and newsroom lab work that will include writing, editing and anchoring of news/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

GRADING:

Grading will be very strict in this course to mirror the pressure professional broadcast journalists face. The point-based grading scale in this class is: 100 - 93 (A), 92.99 – 90 (A-), 89.99 - 87 (B+), 86.99 - 83 (B), 82.99 - 80 (B-), 79.99 - 77 (C+), 76.99 - 73 (C), 72.99 - 70 (C-), 69.99 - 67 (D+), 66.99 - 60 (D), Below 60 (E). Note that there is *no rounding* in the points system. UF grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The following are the components of your grade for the term:

Attendance and Participation: 50% (50 points)
(including 1 mandatory training sessions)

News in 90 finished product: 50% (50 points)

Attendance and Participation: Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students **will not** be permitted to make up work when absences are **unexcused**.

This means you will lose all attendance/participation and News in 90 finished product points for the given newsroom shift you miss. Students will be permitted to make up an assigned News in 90 shift with the chance to receive full credit for any **excused** absence. A student is permitted to swap shifts with another classmate in order to avoid an unexcused absence and subsequent point loss. If two students agree to swap shifts in a given week, they must notify Harrison (hchove@ufl.edu) ahead of time!

News in 90 finished product: Students will receive coaching and feedback on writing, editing, story selection and performance each week. It is vital to apply this feedback to enhance overall performance throughout the term. Students might lose points for fact errors, spelling/grammar errors, dressing that does not comply with INC dress code policies, consistently missing deadlines, etc.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Not all classes fit your schedule or your academic plan, and I understand that. Please know, however, that I very much wish to meet with you before you drop (especially the deeper we get into the semester) to see what we can do to work through any challenges together. If you do have questions about how to drop or the impact on your transcript or financial aid, please visit the Academic Advising website.

SYLLABUS

Every effort has been made to create a syllabus that is as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but each class is a living entity and changes may arise. Please know I will notify you in writing as soon as any syllabus change may arise.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Honesty Policy – 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.

Note that failure to comply with this commitment will result in disciplinary action compliant with the UF Student Honor Code Procedures.

See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/procedures/honorcode.php>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

UF Counseling Services –Resources are available on-campus for students having

personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals. The resources include:

-UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, counseling services and mental health services.

-U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or call (352)392-1575 so a team member can reach out to the student.

-Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS). Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161

-University Police Department 352-392-1111 or 911 for emergencies. www.police.ufl.edu

Academic Resources

-Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career and job search services.

-E-Learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email learning-support@ufl.edu

-Library Support, cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask

-Teaching Center, Broward Hall 352-392-2010. www.teachingcenter.ufl.edu

-Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall (352)846-1138. This service offers help with brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. www.writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio

-Student

Complaints:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities – Students Requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. That office will provide the student with documentation that he/she must provide to the course instructor when requesting accommodation.

SOFTWARE USE

Software Use – All faculty, staff and student of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

EVALUATIONS

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/>.

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.