

JOU 4930 Interviewing

Summer 2019 | Class 12271 | Online | 1 credit

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(Available to video chat almost any time; just reach out by email or text beforehand to set it up.)

Course Description

While how we get our news and the role of journalists may have changed a great deal over the last decade or so, what hasn't change is how to conduct a good interview. Interviewing is the heart of good storytelling, yet few journalists have ever taken a class on this critical skill. Most learn on the job. The goal here to give UF journalism majors a jumpstart. You'll learn how to prepare for an interview and then conduct the interview, as well as how to transcribe and make sense of the information. We will read/watch and then analyze good interviews to help you develop a sense of how to conduct one. By the end of the semester, my hope is that you will be able to interview someone like you've been doing it for years, as I have.

Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Have a good understanding of what makes for a good interview.
- Prepare properly.
- Know how to ask probing, revealing questions.
- Be comfortable enough that it becomes a conversation, not an interrogation (unless that's call for in a news assignment).
- Ask tough questions.

- Record and transcribe interviews.
- Know the difference between a good quote and just information from your interview.

Required Textbook

Talk to Me: How to Ask Better Questions, Get Better Answers, and Interview Anyone Like a Pro, by Dean Nelson, Ph.D, HarperCollins, 2019 (links to [Barnes & Noble](#) and [Amazon](#)).

Required Technology

Recording device. A tape recorder is better than a smartphone because the phone can be a distraction due to possible alerts and calls; also recommend getting the Tape-A-Call app for phone interviews.

Assignments and Grading

1. Watch introductory video. Start thinking about an event to recreate for the midterm and a person to interview for the final.
2. Watch instructional video on transcribing, comment on discussion board.
3. Pick a classmate to interview for about 10 minutes about their life; transcribe interview and turn in transcription.
4. Watch instructional video on research. Read chapter 3, "Then You Dig," comment what you learned on discussion board, take quiz (Q1).
5. Pick an event to write about and person to interview, start researching it and him/her; submit 200-word paper outlining your interests on both.
6. Watch instructional video on preparing questions; read chapter 4, "Now You Make a Plan"; comment on discussion board, take Q2.
7. Finish up research and come up with your questions; turn in list of event questions.
8. Conduct event interview; submit 150-word paper on what went right and what went wrong.

9. Submit transcription.
10. Read chapter 5, "Just Before You Start"; comment on discussion board, take Q3.
11. Watch instructional video on setting up interview, comment on discussion board.
12. Set up interviews; listen to my interview with Sandra Bullock; comment on discussion board.
13. Watch instructional video on conducting interview, comment on discussion board.
14. Listen to my interview with Harrison Ford; comment on discussion board.
15. Read chapter 6, "Okay, Go!"; comment on discussion board, take Q4.
16. Read chapter 7 and 8, "Before and After the Interview Ends" and "Note-Taking and Recording," take Q5.
17. Conduct profile interview; write 250-word paper on what went right and wrong.
18. Submit transcription.
19. Read conclusion, "The Search for Transcendence," comment on discussion board on your interviews.
20. Watch instructional video on using quotes, take Q6.
21. Submit transcription.
22. Watch final video, comment on discussion board about the class and what you've learned.

Grade Allocation (500 points total)

- Discussion board participation.....50 pts. (10%)
- Quizzes (low score drops).....75 pts. (15%)
- Classmate interview and papers.....100 pts. (20%)
- Event transcription.....125 pts. (25%)
- Profile transcription.....150 pts (30%)

Grading Scale

	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent
		B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%

A	100-93%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
A-	92-90%	B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%

Scores are rounded to the nearest whole point: 89.4 rounds down to 89 (B+) while 89.5 rounds up to 90 (A-). The UF [grading policy](#) details how GPA is computed.

OTHER IMPORTANT DETAILS

Academic Integrity

UF students pledge to abide by an [honor code](#) that prohibits academic dishonesty such as fabrication, plagiarism and cheating. You have an affirmative obligation to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. You also must report to appropriate personnel any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. When I discover cheating, my default policy is to fail all involved for the entire course and report the details to the Dean of Students Office.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online [evaluations](#). You will be notified by email when the evaluations are open, typically in the last two or three weeks of the semester. Summary [results](#) are available to you and the public.

Please note that evaluations serve two purposes: They (1) help my boss evaluate my performance and (2) enable me to improve my teaching and this course for future students. So what you have to say really does matter.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to me

when requesting accommodation. Such requests should be made as soon as possible preferably at the start of the semester – so that I can adjust to the accommodation and therefore assist you in your learning.

Health and Wellness

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 campus by encouraging everyone to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a person is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact 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 calling 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care team can help connect students to many other helping resources including, but not limited to, victim advocates, housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Asking for help is a sign of strength.

In case of emergency, call 911.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu reach the [website](#).
- For career advice and planning, or even help selecting a major or minor, contact the [Career Resource Center](#) in the Reitz Union, 392-1601.
- For help in finding resources, ask a UF librarian through [Library Support](#).
- General study skills and tutoring available from the [Teaching Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420.
- Have a complaint? See the [UF Complaints Policy](#) for links and directions.