

SPRING 2020

JOU4930 • DRONE JOURNALISM

Special Study in Journalism – Drone Journalism, Class #15930

CLASS MEETINGS

LECTURE Mondays 1:55 – 2:45 p.m. in WEIM 3219 (**NOTE:** *Original classroom WEIM 1090*)

INSTRUCTOR

Richard Shaw — richardshaw@ufl.edu I am available to meet on Mondays and Tuesdays.

OVERVIEW

This class is a non-technical setting in which students from various disciplines within CJC may apply their individual emphasis areas, whether that be in communications, journalism or other fields. This experiential-learning course introduces students to the issues, applications and flight maneuvers of an evolving and promising technology: small, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as “drones” or UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles). The course is designed for those who are interested in learning to fly an UAS and how to apply them as a storytelling tool. It is not geared for engineering or training students in how to build and program drones, or design new equipment for drones. This course recognizes the evolving market of off-the-shelf drone technology, without hardware development or software configurations.

COURSE GOALS

- Basics aircraft components of professional-grade UAS radio-controlled systems.
- Overview of aerial applications across a variety of disciplines, specifically including communications such as journalism, public relations, film, advertising and advocacy public-service.
- FAA regulatory and legal environment, plus safety procedures and ethical issues.
- In-depth concepts of airborne videography and photography and maneuvering techniques.
- Hands-on lab flight experience beginning with basic maneuvers through skilled levels.

CANVAS PLATFORM

Canvas will be our central hub for the semester. I will use the site to post readings and quizzes.

TEXTBOOK

Gleim Aviation, ‘Remote Pilot FAA Knowledge Test Prep,’ 2nd Edition,
ISBN 978-1-61854-191-8, website www.gleimaviation.com (discounted for UF students)

ASSIGNMENTS POINTS

- Quizzes on readings (4) = 200 points (50 points for each quiz. 10 questions on each quiz.)
- Attendance / participation = 500 points
- Flight lab enthusiasm, readiness, effort, spirit = 200 points
- Drone video critique = 100 points (**NOTE:** *No Final Exam – This serves as the “final” project.*)

Class attendance and participation = 500 points

Two absences are waived during the semester as a courtesy. No explanation necessary. Of the 16 weeks, there are 12 total class sessions. Points are accumulated for 10 sessions, each worth 50 points towards the 500 possible participation points. No make-up quizzes.

Flight Labs There are two individual hands-on flight training sessions, 30 minutes each, arranged on Thursdays from 2 - 4 p.m. at Hume Field. Sign-ups and information to come.

FINAL GRADING SCALE

A	1000 - 940	A-	939 - 900		
B+	899 - 870	B	869 - 830	B-	829 - 800
C+	799 - 770	C	769 - 730	C-	729 - 700
D+	699 - 670	D	669 - 630	D-	629 - 600

UF POLICIES

Honesty: All students are required to adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code. Plagiarism, such as turning in or altering the work of others, will result in a final grade of F. There is a huge difference between inspiration and blatant copying of someone's work. Students must know and strictly abide by all applicable laws (airspace, privacy, etc.), FAA regulations and UF policies.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida may not receive unauthorized aid with assignments for this course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting special classroom needs must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 • Jan. 6

Lecture: Class overview & syllabus
Components of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
Readings: UF Drone Policy
Flight Labs: none

Week 2 • Jan. 13

Lecture: Guest speaker John Rouse, UF Drone
Flight Labs: Sign up schedule

Week 3 • Jan 20

ML King Holiday — no class!

Week 4 • Jan. 27

Quiz: UF Drone Policy
Lecture: Components of Unmanned Aircraft systems
Examples of drone use in journalism and communications
FAA Part 107 Overview
Readings: FAA Regulations
Flight Lab: Thursday, Jan. 30

Week 5 • Feb. 3

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Regulations
Readings: Airspace

Flight Labs: none

Week 6 • Feb. 10

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Airspace
Readings: Decision-Making and Emergencies
Flight Lab: Thursday, Feb. 13

Week 7 • Feb. 17

Lecture: FAA Part 107 Decision-Making and Emergencies
Flight Labs: none

Week 8 • Feb. 24

Quiz: FAA Part 107
Lecture: The Drone's Eye — Cameras for Airborne Video and Photography
Flight Lab: Thursday, Feb. 27

Week 9 • March 2

Spring Break — no class!

Week 10 • March 9

Lecture: Basics of Airborne Videography
Assigned: Drone Video Critique
Flight Lab: Thursday, March 12

Week 11 • March 16

Lecture: Examples of Airborne Videography
Readings: Laws & Ethics
Flight Labs: none

Week 12 • March 23

Quiz: Airborne Videography
Lecture: Laws and Ethics — Trespassing and privacy issues
Readings: Laws & Ethics
Flight Lab: Thursday, March 26

Week 13 • March 30

Lecture: Laws and Ethics — Dealing with the public and local law enforcement authorities
Due: Drone Video Critiques URLs to Canvas
Flight Lab: Thursday, April 2

Week 14 • April 6

Final class: It's a wrap
Quiz: Laws and Ethics
Drone Videos — Watch Party
Flight Labs: none