

JOU 4930: Special Study, "Fresh Take Florida," Class No. 24906, Section 3G06

Spring semester 2020, University of Florida
Mondays 1p to 2p, INC conference room

Description:

Students will work as professional journalists closely with instructors to cover Florida's legislature and other aspects of state government, producing in-depth content under their own bylines that is distributed to and published or broadcast by leading news organizations and at www.freshtakeflorida.com. Extensive travel to Tallahassee and other parts of Florida is expected, especially during the busy legislative session Jan. 14 to March 13.

Attendance:

Our class meets weekly for one hour at 1 p.m. Mondays through the semester. We will discuss upcoming events and coverage plans, so please be prepared. If you miss a meeting, you **must** discuss separately with an instructor any stories you propose pursuing or the status of your upcoming stories. We have provided a dial-in conference number for audio or video connections via the Zoom service for any students or faculty unable to attend in-person. The link is <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/415464053> and has been emailed to you as an Outlook calendar invitation, or the direct dial-in number is +16465588656,,415464053#.

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

Office hours:

Office hours for Prof. Bridis will be 10a to 2p Thursdays in Weimer 2066C. **Please** make an appointment in advance, whenever possible, to avoid waiting on the bench outside his office (appointments take priority). He is also generally available by appointment on other days or evenings. His email is tbridis@ufl.edu. Office hours for Prof. Green are xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. We will generally respond within 24 hours to email inquiries during weekdays or within 48 hours during weekends.

Grading:

Print or online journalists are expected to publish at least six stories during the semester, on their own or with classmates. All stories must be approved by instructors before they count for credit. At the discretion of instructors, stories that require unusual time or effort may result in additional or even double credit. Each story is worth up to 200 points. Grading rubric for each story is below:

Assignment	Percentage	Points
Originality/distinctiveness	10	20
Collaborating with photo/video	10	20
Reporting depth	40	80
Writing/AP Style	40	80

Still-image, visual journalists are expected to collaborate on at least six reporting pieces with classmates *and* produce at least one significant photo essay or slide show.

Broadcast journalists will meet during the first two weeks of the semester with instructors and Harrison Hove to set expectations for the minimum work required and grading rubrics.

Hybrid visual journalists (photo & video) will meet during the first two weeks of the semester with instructors to set expectations for the minimum work required and grading rubrics.

Additionally, for all students, a “professionalism” grade of up to 400 points for the semester, or 25 percent of your grade, will be assigned by instructors. This will reflect a student’s ability to demonstrate initiative; meet deadlines; establish priorities; interact professionally with instructors, peers and classmates; deal with unusual reporting challenges and more.

Grading scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below

Grading policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Accommodating students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Textbooks:

There are no required textbooks for this course. We highly recommend “The Associated Press Guide to News Writing: The Resource for Professional Journalists,” by Rene J. Cappon.

Course evaluation:

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. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-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.

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 352-392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

Important dates:

Monday, Jan. 6: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Friday, Jan. 10: Training on Lobby Tools in Tallahassee and tour of Florida Capitol (starts 9 a.m.)

Friday, Jan. 10: Deadline for Florida lawmakers to request to file bills in final draft form (5 p.m.)

Monday, Jan. 13: Weekly meeting in Weimer Room 3032 (note change of location for this week only)

Tuesday: Jan. 14: **First day of legislative session**

Tuesday: Jan. 14: Noon deadline for Florida lawmakers to file bills and have them approved for filing

Monday, Jan. 20: No weekly meeting (holiday)

Friday, Jan. 24: Florida Ethics Commission meeting

Monday, Jan. 27: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Wednesday: Jan. 29: Florida governor Cabinet aides meeting, 9 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 3: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday, Feb. 3: Start of weeklong oral arguments in Florida Supreme Court

Tuesday, Feb 4: Gov. Ron DeSantis Cabinet meeting, 9 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 10: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday: Feb. 17: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Sunday, Feb. 23: Deadline for bills to have been considered in committee or subcommittee

Monday, Feb. 24: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday, March 2: No weekly meeting (spring break)

Monday, March 2: Some counties begin early voting for Florida presidential primary election

Monday, March 2: Start of weeklong oral arguments in Florida Supreme Court

Thursday, March 6: Florida Ethics Commission meeting

Friday, March 7: Start of mandatory early voting period for Florida presidential primary election

Monday, March 9: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday, March 9: Bills must have received at least a second reading by this date

Friday, March 13: **End of Florida legislative session**

Monday, March 16: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Tuesday, March 17: Florida presidential primary elections

Wednesday, March 18: Florida governor Cabinet aides meeting

Monday, March 23: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Tuesday: March 24: Gov. Ron DeSantis Cabinet meeting

Wednesday, March 25: Florida clemency board meeting

Monday, March 30: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday, March 30: Start of weeklong oral arguments in Florida Supreme Court

Monday, April 6: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Monday, April 13: Weekly meeting in INC conference room

Friday, April 17: Florida Ethics Commission meeting

Monday, April 20: Weekly meeting in INC conference room (final weekly meeting of semester)