

RTV 4684 SECTION 73A0 CLASS # 13405

ADVANCED BROADCAST NEWS PRODUCING

SUMMER 2020 SYLLABUS MARK LEEPS (mleeps@wuft.org, 352-294-1504)

Basics

Prerequisite: C or better in RTV3632 Electronic News Producing & Management
Other prep: You should also have already taken JOU3101 Print/Digital Reporting, should have taken an AP shift (4930) in the INC, and generally should also take at least RTV4310 (TV1 reporting) of the tv news reporting sequence.

Newsroom Shift (TV): One full day per week pre-arranged (9:30am until 6:00pm)

This is a lab-based course, no lectures or projects or quizzes, but there may be group training sessions TBA.

Normally all-day shifts producing 5pm live daily tv newscast, other possible requirements for radio or other tv producing.

For remote instruction, apart from studying how things work if we were in the INC, we will produce shows remotely using Streamyard and other special tools.

Instructor's office hours: M-F 1-2p, Weimer 2324 (email above any time, we may arrange for phone or zoom sessions if needed)

Texts

There is no required text, though buying an AP Stylebook will help you in this experience and in this field... help you now and in any pro producing jobs.

Course

5pm tv newscast producers normally work one day per week, 9:30am-6:00pm, with extra time spent checking pitches or planning or filling coverage reports. After the academic prep of completing RTV3632 (Producing) and serving as an AP for the 5pm show, this is the 3crhr course for immersive training as a line producer. If you lack that AP experience your newsroom role in this course will be more limited until we can bring you up to speed to sub or rotate as a line producer. For additional terms of line producing, this course is normally repeated only once, then any further work as 5pm tv newscast producer is done as a 1crhr RTV4930. Radio/Digital can also offer RTV4684: those assignments vary. Remote instruction will greatly alter this course, however we will study how to produce 5pm shows but practice creating Facebook Flex shows remotely with Streamyard and other special tools.

Objective

The objective is to grow your reliable and marketable skills as a tv newscast producer, and to generate samples for your resume reel. Every day is different content-wise, different story formats and show segments vary in their degree of difficulty to execute, and experience is key to learning how to handle the newscast and how to grow your editorial judgment.

Goals

Develop and demonstrate the following professional skills:

1. Ability to **scour “the world”** for news to consider for your show and your audience (networks, social media, local competitors, pro partners, feeds, press releases, neighborhood news & local events, etc.)...developing news judgment about what to include in your show for your audience and why.
2. Ability to **match various treatments and formats to stories** for editorial and production reasons...and creativity to sometimes adopt unusual treatments or experiment with novel ones
3. Ability to develop and manage a rundown on a pro newsroom computer system like ENPS (a pro platform used by many commercial stations) in terms of planning how the half-hour of television should look and sound minute by minute. **Make sure everything is correctly formatted.**
4. Ability to work on daily-deadline managing all contributors (reporters and editors) and talent (anchors and reporters fronting their material live) to make sure everyone is prepared and in place to attempt to execute your gameplan. During crunchtime and showtime, **you’re the leader.**
5. Ability to serve frontline in the control room where you **manage the show second-to-second, including all timing issues and “navigating”** to avoid trouble and to recover from it when it happens anyway. (This involves real-time communicating with the director and talent, real-time decision-making, executing “backup plans” or generating new ones on the fly, showing leadership to deliver the best you can for your audience given how your show rolls out in real life.)
6. Ability to **analyze how to improve production-wise and how to pass-the-ball editorially.** During critique, don’t focus on anchor talent performance, go over their readiness and focus and communication and understanding...pay attention to the details we need to correct to keep everyone (cast and crew) on the same page next time. Editorially, send a note to the producers and newsmanagers about how far we advanced certain stories and if there’s more they might consider next.

Calendar Notes:

- LECTURE BEGINS THE WEEK OF MONDAY 05/11
- SPECIAL DAYS:
Summer Break, WEEKS OF 06/22 AND 06/29

Key Points In The Normal 5pm Producing Day

- Before your shift: awareness of the coming news of the day, reporter pitches, requests for live shots
- 9:30am morning editorial meeting & reporter assignments
- Morning NBC-FL conference call
- 2:30pm show production meeting—explaining the draft show to anchors, director, newsmanagers
- 4:00pm all local reporters should be back in copyediting or doing video editing by now
- 4:30pm we should be wrapping up most scripts to their final versions
- 4:40pm anchors should be printing scripts by now
- 4:45pm videos should be turned in (if not, you may need to soon switch to a backup plan for the lead or have an alternative for other large components in your z-block)
- 4:50pm everyone should be getting into place, talent in the studio, reporters where they need to be, and producer in the control room
- 5:00pm show starts
- 5:30pm show ends (this is why we preach 30 minutes of focus)
- 5:35pm gather in studio for show critique (producer & director lead off)
- 5:50pm write up notes on show for other producers and newsmanagers

Grading

- **100% - producing**
You're graded on the skills you prove over the course of the term as a line producer. It is a holistic, all-inclusive, end-of-term assessment. Try to get better each show...in the real world you're only as good as your last show (how it looked to the real world, which is rarely as good as you planned).

Grading Policies

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>

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

Grading Scale

The grading scale is as follows:

A	95-100
A-	92-94
B+	89-91
B	86-88
B-	83-85
C+	80-82
C	77-79
C-	74-76
D+	71-73
D	60-70
D-	50-59
E	0-49

UF Honor Code

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 in this class.

Accommodations

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.

Campus Resources

Please be aware of UF's Health & Wellness resources for students:

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

Counseling & Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
352-392-1575

First Responders: University Police Department 352-392-1111 or 911 for emergencies <http://www.police.ufl.edu/> & SARS (Sexual Assault Recovery Services) at the Student Health Care Center 352-392-1161