

RTV 4301 SECTION 749A CLASS # 15473

TV NEWS REPORTING (“TV1”)

SUMMER 2020 SYLLABUS

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Basics

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in JOU3101

Class: **Fridays 11:00am-1:45pm**

INC lab: Newsroom shifts = **one full day/wk (9:30am - 6:00pm) pre-arranged**

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

Text

Required Text:

Broadcast News Handbook (5th Edition): *Writing, Reporting & Producing in the Age of Social Media* by Charlie Tuggle, Forrest Carr, Suzanne Huffman

Course

TV1 covers the basics of learning to be a tv news reporter...from pitching stories to newsgathering and writing, plus photography and editing. You'll learn shorter formats like vo's and vo/sot's and eventually try to create a package.

Objective

TV1 helps develop skills & experience you can include on your **resume**, and to create reporting clips you can include on your **resume reel**.

Goals

We will have a series of weekly assignments/projects, most requiring roughly 4 hours of work. You will get details as we go, but we will likely practice:

1. Remote writing/recording of a VO format story
2. Phone newsgathering and Remote tv interviewing
3. Remote writing/recording of VO/SOT stories (multiple reps)
4. Remote writing/recording of a PKG story (1-2 reps)

Calendar Notes:

- LECTURE BEGINS FRIDAY 05/15
- LAB SHIFTS BEGIN THE WEEK OF MONDAY 05/18
- LAB SHIFTS END THE WEEK OF MONDAY 08/10
- SPECIAL DAYS:
Summer Break, WEEKS OF 06/22 AND 06/29

Grading

- **75% - Weekly Projects**

We will give you an interim grade after the first 6 weeks, and a final grade after the final 6 weeks. Grading looks at the **quantity and quality of reporting work** completed during the term.

- **25% - Pop Quizzes** All will be 10 questions...multiple choice...based on lecture material, handouts, textbook material, and news current events. One key to becoming a better reporter/producer of news is to become a better consumer of news, so current events (local & national) should never be a problem for a local media reporter.

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 for TV2 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 |

Academic Honesty: Team vs Solo Work

Your lab work might be a shared responsibility, but I expect reporters to take the lead on writing and editing on deadline (“ownership”) of their own packages. Quizzes, tests, story ideas, story analysis papers, and any other written material handed in must be your own work with no help for others.

UF Honor Code

You are required to abide by the Student Honor Code.

Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at www.sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

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.

TV2 students typically handle 20-30 pounds of gear in all sorts of weather conditions; students with physical limitations or ongoing medical conditions should seek accommodation from the instructor as needed.

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 reach out umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can respond

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

CJC/DMP/INC Policies

It is your responsibility to learn and comply with all INC policies (posted online: wuft.org/newsroom), and these apply to everyone regardless of platform involved: WUFT-TV, WUFT-FM, wuft.org, WRUF-TV, ESPN-am/fm/web, etc. Please pay particular attention to the well-established policies involving our newsroom dress code, ethics, computer usage, and field gear usage & liability.

We embrace the RTDNA Code of Ethics and the similar SPJ Code of Ethics, but we also have our own Ethics Policies you should study and follow.

If we are allowed in the INC at any time this Summer, the food & drink policy for the INC is that no eating or drinking is allowed outside the break room, nothing except for bottled water...but be careful not to spill onto computers or gear.

TV News Basics

- All work is done for potential broadcast on WUFT-TV, WUFT-FM and publishing on WUFT.ORG and related in-house platforms but you should **make no promises** to the public about if or when certain stories will air.
- We **never give copies** of our taped material (raw, edited, or airchecks) to anyone, but can take requests from the public to post a particular story on our web site.
- **Save your best work as you go** to a portable hard drive or personal cloud storage. Don't count on being able to find it in UF computers at the end of a term.
- **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>.