

RTV 4684 SECTION 14BB CLASS # 19778

# ADVANCED BROADCAST NEWS PRODUCING

FALL 2020 SYLLABUS MARK LEEPS ([mleeps@wuft.org](mailto: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.

Instructor's office hours: M-F 1-2p, Weimer 2324

## **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.

## **Background**

The pro stations make UF an extraordinary place to gain practical experience, compared to many other J-schools. Many places create campus news for a campus audience (perhaps a weekly on a totally academic calendar), with a student/campus target audience, "broadcast" only on campus cable.

**Your tvnews work will routinely be broadcast to a 13+ county area.**

## **Objective**

The objective of regularly producing live tv newscasts 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.

## **Unexpected Opportunities**

Planned shows on days of classes are all that is required, however **you may find extraordinary opportunities by volunteering for other shows or specials** the INC may attempt during the term. There have been Homecoming shows, Hurricane Specials, Sports Specials, Holiday Specials (Veterans Day, Memorial Day, MLK), and special reports for other major news (9/11, Pulse, etc.).

## **Calendar Notes**

- **Producer shifts begin 09/11 with the relaunch of a weekly First at Five (30min newscast on WUFT-TV)**  
You will be in a rotation working every other week and there will be only 10 shows total before we stop for Thanksgiving week. We'll be in remote mode for the remainder of the term so any projects the last couple weeks will likely be more alternative-model or experimental.
- **We start MON/TUE Facebook Flex shows the following week.**  
You will not have to jobshare your assigned day and will produce all 10 reps.

## **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

## **COVID Changes & Precautions**

We are planning to return to Weimer Hall, particularly the INC and WUFT-TV Studio Control for this lab course. That will require masking and distancing and a reduced headcount among other precautions. If that proves impossible at any point, or at any time you need to shift to remote instruction, we can accommodate that but the nature of the products you'll produce could change significantly, depending on the technology we are able to use.

In the INC, even if we're scattered around the room, planning meetings will be by Zoom rather than crowding into the conference room. We will not gather in the studio after the show, feedback will be written. So always keep in mind we are masking and distancing and limiting numbers no matter where in the building.

UF Policy on COVID: In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class.

[Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.](#)

- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies.](#)

UF Policy on Zoom Sessions:

Unlike Producing1 which is basically all-lecture, Producing2 is basically all-lab. But if there are any group sessions for training, they may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Inclusion & Diversity**

CJC JOU Policy:

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications Department of Journalism embraces a commitment toward an intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along a number of dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion. We expect each of our journalism courses to help foster an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society.

Statement from Instructors:

The craft of journalism strives to be objective. However, much of the gathering of information for reporting purposes could be from subjective sources that are historically built on a subset of privileged voices. Furthermore, we often find ourselves relying on information about historically important events that were mostly framed through the perspectives of a segment of our society. We acknowledge it is possible there may be both overt and covert biases in the course's material due to the lens and/or period of time in which it was written. Please contact me with feedback if you have any suggestions to improve the quality of the course materials.

The newsroom has many policies for dress and behavior, as does WUFT-TV, but in the classroom we support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and would like to honor your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official records, please let us know. •

- If something is said in class or the newsroom (by anyone) that makes you feel uncomfortable, please talk to us about it.
- If you feel like your performance in the course is being impacted by your experiences outside of classtime, please don't hesitate to come and talk with either Mark or Kalisha. We want to be a resource for you. Or you might prefer to talk to our INC Director Mira Lowe. ([lowemira@ufl.edu](mailto:lowemira@ufl.edu)) The PATH office also has an excellent staff of academic advisors, and active connections to the Dean of Students and the U\_MatterWeCare program.
- Or if you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, Joanna Hernandez, CJC Director of Inclusion and Diversity, is an excellent resource. You can email her at [jhernandez@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:jhernandez@jou.ufl.edu).

### **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.

### **Accomodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first **register with the Disability Resource Center** (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://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](mailto: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

## **CJC/DMP/INC Policies**

**It is your responsibility to learn and comply with all INC policies.**

There are specific rules in the Dress Code but the bottom line is **you will not be treated as a professional if you do not look business-like**. Anyone who violates the dress code will be notified at the time of the violation and advised to comply in the future or sent home to change, if necessary, in the judgment of the newsroom staffer. Students who appear on tv or the web will get feedback about clothing, makeup and performance...in order to keep our work products on-par with industry standards.

The G020 Loading Zone Student Policy emphasizes that any access to the Weimer Service Drive is only for stopping to load/unload heavy/bulky gear and stops are limited to 10 minutes. **Follow instructions closely, you are personally responsible for any tickets you get.**

The CJC/DMP/INC Equipment Policy emphasizes that **gear checkout is for official course or INC business only**. The college/stations hold the rights to all work-product and published/broadcast material generated, and it may not be redistributed or repurposed in any form without permission of college/station officials. Don't post anything we generate to YouTube or other non-wufl websites without checking.

The Computer Policy emphasizes that **all the computers in the INC are for official station business (including select courses) only**. Many are reserved for people in specific roles at certain times of day. Make sure you work in an area appropriate to your role/course, that you log-in as instructed and save & log-out everytime you walk away.

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.

## **Course Notes**

- **Never leave your newsroom shift without prior approval** from a NewsManager.
- 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.
- To help secure our gear and help keep our workplace secure, **do not let strangers into the newsroom and do not prop the doors open after normal business hours**. Report any unusual activity to managers and report any suspicious activity to managers or police.
- **Keep backups**. The material on all of our workstations gets routinely deleted at the end of each term...and failures could happen at any time. Protect your best work and save it to your portable hard drive.
- In addition to INC NewsManagers, other station staffers may provide feedback at any time. All **criticism from the pro staff is meant to be professional, not personal**...learn to accept it and learn from it. You may also get feedback from special guests.
- We have outside partnerships ongoing with NBC NewsChannel Florida, CNN, and sometimes others. **Don't assume material we generate can be shared or posted anywhere; always check with Mark first**.
- **Your swipe access to the INC that comes with registration in this class will expire after the end of the term.**