

RTV4930: Live Sports Production

Spring 2021

College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

Instructor: Geoff Thompson

Place: WEIM 2050

LIVE CLASS MEETING – Tuesday 5:10p – 8:10p

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Office: Weimer Hall 2078

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Course Site: <https://ufl.instructure.com>

Course Text: *Television Sports Production, 5th edition*, by Jim Owens + various weekly readings

Overview and Objectives

This course attempts to expose students to live sports production as an experience. Students completing the course will demonstrate progress in their understanding of live sports production, its history, job functions, industry standards, and where the industry is going. Those students that complete this course will be prepared to enter and perform satisfactorily in entry-level sports communication and media positions.

Course Learning Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- (1) Understand the origins of sports broadcasting and milestones
- (2) Know standard job functions within a broadcasting crew and how a broadcast is assembled
- (3) Understand industry standards with equipment, skills, and concepts
- (4) Knowing what we know now and making educated guesses, students should be able to articulate where the industry is headed

College of Journalism and Communications Objectives

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications requires that by graduation all students should be able to:

- understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the US

- demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- think critically, creatively and independently;
- conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;
- apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.

Course Grades

The following table outlines the point-accruing components of the course. The total points earned from each component will be summed and divided by the total points possible in the course.

Evaluation Components	Points Per Component	% of Total Grade
Class Participation, Citizenship (15)	10 pts each = 150 pts	15%
Live Event Participation	100 pts each = 400 pts	40%
Current Events Quizzes (via Canvas)	10 pts each = 150	15%
Midterm	100 pts	10%
Final	200 pts	20%
Total	1000 pts	100%

Assignment Descriptions

Class Participation and Citizenship (15 weeks, 10 pts per week)– This includes, but is not limited, to the following: regular and on-time attendance for class; serious preparation of the assigned texts; active listening, including note taking; involvement in classroom activities, questions & comments on the course forums; being respectful of others; and, a semester-long sustained effort at contributing to the class discussion through visible attention, helpful questions and worthwhile insights into the issues being discussed.

Please note, if you are using technology in class for non-class related work or doing other distracting things in class (homework for another class, texting, posting to social media, organizing your calendar, reading the newspaper, etc), you are NOT being a good citizen.

The following rubric will be employed to assign participation points

Preferred (10 pts)	Acceptable (7-9 pts)	Needs Improvement (4-6 pts)	Unacceptable (1-3 pts)	Will Ask You To Leave (0pts)
Arrives on time Comments are relevant and reflect understanding and good preparation Clear enthusiasm Participates in Twitter course hashtag activity with 3-4 per class	Arrives on time Comments are mostly relevant, but understanding may be slightly lacking Not overly enthusiastic, but positive Participates in Twitter course hashtag activity with 1-2 per class	Arrives no more than 5 minutes late Comments are minimal (“yeah”, “uh huh”) and demonstrate poor preparation Demeanor is sluggish Participates in Twitter course hashtag activity with 0-1 per class	Arrives more than 5 minutes late No comments are made Sleeping, texting, disengaged Participates in Twitter course hashtag activity rarely if at all	Absent Disruptive or rude comments are made Drawing others into disrespectful behaviors (showing texts, shopping online, etc) Never participates in Twitter course hashtag activity

- **Live event participation (400 points)** – Admittedly, we’re going to have to play this one by ear due to the current unpleasantness. So this going to be extremely fluid. Through some combination of SECN and local high school broadcasts, there will be opportunities to participate in live broadcasts. It may be shadowing, it may be actually working. Everyone will need to do at least 4, and then present a report the following class period as to what they did and their reflections on it.
- **Current events quizzes (150 points)**- Part of being engaged in the industry is keeping abreast of current trends. Each week, I will assign readings or shows for you to consume, and you will be quizzed on it via Canvas.
- **Midterm (150 points)** - Multiple choice test via Canvas, based on lectures.
- **Final Exam (200 points)** – Multiple choice test via Canvas, cumulative, based on lectures, guest speakers, etc.

Grading (grades are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number for grading purposes)

935-1000 points = A	895-934 points = A-		
865-894 points = B+	825-864 points = B	795-824 points = B-	
765-794 points = C+	725-764 points = C	695-724 points = C-	
665-694 points = D+	625-664 points = D	595-624 points = D-	
0-594 points = F			

Course Outline

Week 1 (1.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to class • History of sports broadcasting
Week 2 (1.19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPN & <i>Monday Night Football</i> • Live event assignments
Week 3 (1.26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Remote Production? • Owens Chapters 1-2, 5
Week 4 (2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Remote Production? • Owens Chapters 3, 5 • Live event reports
Week 5 (2.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the Production • Owens Chapters 6-7 • Live event reports
Week 6 (2.16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the Production (cont.) • Owens Chapters 8-9 • Live event reports
Week 7 (2.23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the Production (cont) • Intro to TV GFX • Owens Ch 10 • Live event reports
Week 8 (3.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning the Production (cont) • Owens Chapter 11
Week 9 (3.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MidTerm
Week 10 (3.16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Production • Owens Chapter 12
Week 11 (3.23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling the stories of the game - Directing • Owens Chapters 13-14
Week 12 (3.30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling the stories of the game – Announcing • Owens Chapter 14
Week 13 (4.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post production, budgeting for the remote • Owens Chapters 15, 17

Week 14 (4.12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rise of REMIs
Week 15 (4.19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of Sports TV/Production • Owens Ch. 4
Week 16 (4.28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL – 5:30p – 7:30p

Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance in the class is required. Excused absences include approved UF attendance exceptions. In all instances of excused absences the instructor and student will work out a plan for completing missed assignments.

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions. Please turn off cell phones prior to class. Sports reporting is a deadline-based profession, so you are expected to arrive on time for each class.

In case of illness, the instructor should be notified in advance and a physician's note may be required. Unexcused absences will result in deductions from the students final percentage score. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies which can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Attendance is recorded and you **WILL** lose attendance and participation points for absence from class time. This could affect up to 15% of your final grade. There are **NO** free absences from class. We only meet once a week. For each absence you will lose class participation points, unless you have a note and it is excused and approved by UF.

Online

Our class sessions 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 un-mute 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.

Absences and Make-up Work

Students are expected to be in class on time and remain until the dismissal. Absences are unexcused when the professor has not been notified of an acceptable reason within 24 hours of the class meeting. When absent, please contact a fellow student to find out what was missed. You are responsible for all material covered or assigned during classes, even if you are not there. Your grade on late assignments will drop one letter grade for every day they are late.

Academic Integrity

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. For more information visit the Honor Code web page at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> or contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

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 that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this process as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Course Grading

Students will be graded in accordance with UF policies for assigning grade points as articulated in the link that follows. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Respect for Diversity Statement

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

It is imperative that there be an atmosphere of trust and safety in the classroom. I will attempt to foster an environment in which each class member is able to hear and respect each other. It is critical that each class member show respect for all worldviews expressed in class. Please let me know if something said or done in the classroom, by either myself or other students, is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense. While our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, the impact of what happens throughout the course is not to be ignored and is something that I consider to be very important and deserving of attention. If and when this occurs, there are several ways to alleviate some of the discomfort or hurt you may experience:

1. Discuss the situation privately with me. I am always open to listening to students' experiences, and want to work with students to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
2. Discuss the situation with the class. Chances are there is at least one other student in the class who had a similar response to the material. Discussion enhances the ability for all class participants to have a fuller understanding of context and impact of course material and class discussions.

3. Notify me of the issue through another source such as your academic advisor, a trusted faculty member, or a peer. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing the issue directly with me, I encourage you to seek out another, more comfortable avenue to address the issue.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

***NOTE: Topic schedule subject to change based on guest availabilities and other factors.**