

RTV 3593: Multimedia Sports Reporting

Summer 23 Study Abroad

College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

Instructor: Eric Esterline
Class meets on location in the United Kingdom

E-Mail: eeesterline@jou.ufl.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Esterline Office: At UK Accommodations Site
Esterline Phone: (317)703-4739
Course Site: <https://ufl.instructure.com>

Readings and Resources will be posted and available online.

Overview and Objectives

RTV 3593 is designed to offer instruction, analysis and training in sports information gathering and research, writing, interviewing and reporting in a digital age. Special emphasis is placed on improving sports writing skills and reporting judgment, research and analysis of sports events and issues, basic sports production, radio reporting assignments and generation of sports content for the Internet.

Course Learning Objectives

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

- (1) develop skills to effectively research, gather and analyze sports information;
- (2) develop skills to write high-quality stories and features related to sports for on-air radio broadcast and posting on the Internet, and to record and edit audio obtained via phone or in-person;
- (3) enhance understanding of the ethics and values of sports journalism;
- (4) develop ability to understand relative newsworthiness of sports stories;
- (5) develop an ability to write and report "sound and visual stories and features," with the expectation work produced on a content platform
- (6) develop skills for interviewing athletes, coaches, sports managers and owners;
- (7) develop an understanding of the variety of sports sources used as a reporter;
- (8) enhance understanding of international sports;
- (9) learn about websites and other sources for sports research

Course Eligibility

Students must be approved by program leader.

Required Equipment

Mobile Phone

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 and Excursion Attendance, Participation and Citizenship	20 points	20%
Online Discussions	20 points	20%
Project One	20 points	20%
Project Two	20 points	20%
Project Three	20 points	20%
Total	100 pts	100%

Assignment Descriptions

Class and Excursion Attendance, Participation and Citizenship (4 weeks, 5 pts per week)

– This includes, but is not limited, to the following: regular and on-time attendance for class and required group excursions; serious preparation of the assigned texts; active listening, including note-taking; involvement in classroom and outside of classroom activities; posting relevant content to Canvas, questions & comments on the course forums; being respectful of others; and, a program-long sustained effort at contributing to the program discussion through visible attention, helpful questions and worthwhile insights into the issues being discussed.

The following rubric will be employed to assign participation points:

Preferred (5 pts)	Acceptable (4 pts)	Needs Improvement (2-3 pts)	Unacceptable (1pt)	Will Ask You To Leave (0pts)
Arrives on time Comments are relevant and reflect understanding and	Arrives on time Comments are mostly relevant, but understanding may be slightly	Arrives no more than 5 minutes late Comments are minimal (“yeah”, “uh huh”) and	Arrives more than 5 minutes late No comments are made	Absent Disruptive or rude comments are made

good preparation	lacking	demonstrate poor preparation	Sleeping, texting, disengaged	Drawing others into disrespectful behaviors (showing texts, shopping online, etc)
Clear enthusiasm	Not overly enthusiastic, but positive	Demeanor is sluggish		

Online Discussion (4 weeks, 5pts per week) – Through our class portal on Canvas we will hold online discussions surrounding various topics. You will be required to post your thoughts and respond to classmates as well. There will be a rubric for you to follow to ensure you participate properly.

Points	5	4-3	2	1	0
Quality of Post (5 pts)	Appropriate comments: thoughtful; reflective, and respectful of others posting	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to others postings	Responds with average effort providing obvious information without further analysis	Responds, but with minimum effort. (e.g. "I agree with Bill)	No Posting
Relevance of Post (5 pts)	Post topics related to discussion topic; prompts further discussion of topic	Post topics that are related to discussion content	Posts topics which do no relate to the discussion content	Makes short or irrelevant remarks	No Posting
Contribution of the Learning Community (5 pts)	Aware of needs of community; attempts to motivate the group discussion; presents creative approaches to topic	Attempts to direct the discussion and to present relevant viewpoints for consideration by group; interacts freely	Makes little effort to participate in learning community as develops	Does not make effort to participate in learning community as it develops	No feedback provided to fellow students (s)

Projects - All projects will be expected to be of high quality work. Be sure to work ahead to secure a subject and sources for your stories.

On days projects are due, students will present a report on their work in class and receive feedback from the instructor and classmates.

- **Project One** – Interview - students will be required to interview 3 different individuals about a soccer/football related subject. Details are provided on Canvas and in class.
- **Project Two** – Event Recap - students will be required to create an event recap and post to our class site. Details are provided on Canvas and in class.
- **Project Three** – Feature Story - students will be required to create a feature story related to our study abroad program and post to our class site. Details are provided on Canvas and in class.

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

93-100 points	= A	90-92 points	= A-		
87-89 points	= B+	83-86 points	= B	80-82 points	= B-
77-79 points	= C+	73-76 points	= C	70-72 points	= C-
67-69 points	= D+	63-66 points	= D	60-62 points	= D-
0-59 points	= E				

Course Outline

Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interviewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lecture/Discussion In Class - 5/15, 5/16, 5/19 ○ Online Discussion Due (5/21)
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Online Sports Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lecture/Discussion In Class - 5/22, 5/24 ○ Online Discussion Due (5/28) ○ Interview Project (6/4)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writing Feature Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lecture/Discussion In Class - 5/30, 6/1, 6/2 ○ Online Discussion Due (6/4) ○ Event Recap Project Due (6/11)
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sports Journalism Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lecture/Discussion/Reflection - 6/5, 6/6, 6/9 ○ Online Discussion Due (6/11) ○ Feature Story Project Due (6/21)

Policies

Academic Integrity

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. Also, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me. Violations can result in a failing grade for the course and referral to the dean of students.

In-Class Recordings

The official UF policy regarding in-class recording, to comply with a 2021 Florida law can be found [here](#).

Online Privacy Policy

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.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting the [get-started page](#). It is important to share any accommodation letter with me and discuss access needs 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>

Diversity

The College of Journalism and Communications embraces an intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity along several dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class, and religion. Each course is expected to help foster an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communication in a global society. To that end:

1. Please let me know if you find any material in the course violates that expectation.
2. Please alert me if you have a name or preferred pronouns that differ from the class roll information, which is my only source of information about you.
3. If you have any concerns involving diversity in this course that you feel uncomfortable discussing with me, I encourage you to contact Professor Joanna Hernandez, CJC director of inclusion and diversity, at jhernandez@jou.ufl.edu.

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care [website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center [website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the Student Health Care Center [website](#).
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department [website](#) or call 352-392- 1111 (or 911 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville. Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center [website](#).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk [website](#), or phone 24/7 at 352-392-4357, or email helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Career assistance and counseling services. Visit the [website](#). Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Visit the [website](#).
- Teaching Center: General study skills and tutoring. Visit the [website](#). Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420.
- On-Campus Student Complaints: Details are available through the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code, also known as the [Orange Book](#).

***NOTE: Topic schedule subject to change based on guest availability and other factors. There will be no change in project due date or the midterm examination.**