RTV 3304 Advanced Audio Storytelling // R2 // Spring 2025

Instructor: David Barasoain

Section: 5101

Room: Weimer 3324

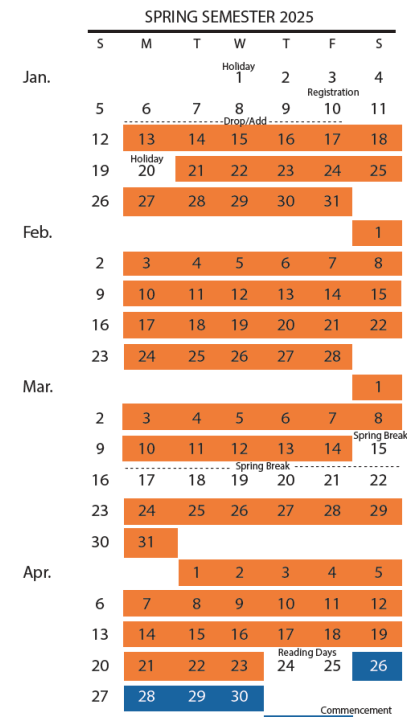**Periods**: Friday // Period 4 - 5

Time: 10:40 am - 12:35 pm

Email: dbarasoain@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-294-1500

Textbook: (none) This semester, there is no textbook for this class. Materials will be provided throughout the term.

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (and by appointment) in Weimer 2304.

SPRING SEMESTER 2025

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Jan.				Holiday 1	2	3 Registration	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10 Drop/Add	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	Holiday 20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Feb.							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	
Mar.							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	Spring Break 15
	16	17	18	19	20	21 Spring Break	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					
Apr.			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17 Reading Days	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30		Commencement	

RTV 3304 (Advanced Audio Storytelling) In this course, we will build on the foundational skills you've developed in R1 to refine your craft and produce more complex and engaging audio stories. By the end of the term, you will have gained confidence in conducting in-depth interviews, identifying the most compelling elements, and crafting narratives that bring listeners closer to the story.

Throughout the course, we will focus on developing your skills in digital audio editing, allowing you to bring your stories to life in a more nuanced and immersive way. We will also explore the art of writing audio stories to create narratives that reveal the richness of human experience and the places we call home. Everyone has a story to tell, and in RTV 3304, you will have the opportunity to help bring those stories to life. Welcome to R2.

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Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Course Objectives and Goals

1. Writing for broadcast: You'll advance your ability to write for the ear and craft written scripts that guide your stories through a clean linear path. That's for the body of your stories, anchor introductions, and promo spots.

2. Advanced audio recordings: You'll learn more advanced audio recording techniques. You'll also craft audio stories with Adobe Audition that have greater texture and, building on techniques learned in RTV 3303, triage your recordings Descript and export sessions into Audition.

3. Real-world application: Most of the work you'll produce is for broadcast. Many of your productions will be broadcast on WUFT FM, published digitally, and possibly as part of a podcast and/or distributed on the statewide network (PRX).

4. Presentation experience: While a host may voice your written introduction, you will be expected to voice and guide every story you report and produce.

5. Enhanced reporting and consumption: You'll be introduced to great storytelling from new, experienced, and legendary reporters, producers, podcasters, and documentarians.

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Required Equipment: You can check out digital audio recorders for your audio projects. You will also be provided with an SD card. The newsroom has recorders for you to use during your shifts.

Software and Hardware needs:
- Students are expected to have a laptop and purchase Adobe Audition if needed (at a student discount) Link: https://software.ufl.edu/adobe-offering
- A dedicated Google account for this class (not a personal one). It is for sending emails and source lists and sharing audio more easily between your computer and the INC server (INC Daily).
- A cell phone with enough storage space to record audio and take photos.
- The free REV Call Recorder App. Florida is a two-party consent state, so you must get permission to record an interviewee's voice.

Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Students will be given specific times when evaluations are open later in the semester. Summary results of these and previous assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

Zoom Professionalism:

There may be times when we will use Zoom during class sessions. You are expected to have your camera on during these times. Please maintain a professional appearance and conduct during our remote lecture meetings, including considering your wardrobe and visual backgrounds.

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students to refer back to and for enrolled students who cannot attend live. Participating allows you to have your voice, video, or image recorded. If you do not consent to recording your profile or video image, please keep your camera off, mute your voice, and refrain from using a profile image. You can communicate with the class using the "chat" feature, which will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and sharing of recorded materials are prohibited.

Late Work:

Managing time effectively is essential as the news industry operates on strict deadlines. Late submissions won't be accepted without penalty unless prior arrangements have been made, accompanied by a doctor's note or a letter (preferably from the university or a university-sponsored group). While unexpected situations can arise, if you anticipate that your work may be delayed for any reason, please contact me before the due date to discuss alternative timelines. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, work submitted without prior arrangements may not be accepted.

Ethical Warning:

As a journalist, you must not interview family, friends, fellow fraternity or sorority members, coworkers, neighbors, or other close associates. In journalism, we consider these relationships as potential conflicts of interest. These individuals can provide valuable tips, story ideas, or background information, but interviewing them for this class will likely result in an automatic assignment failure.

Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty and integrity are core principles of the University of Florida community and are especially crucial when reporting true stories. Familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, available at https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

Any fabrication or cheating in assignments will result in a failing grade for this course. This includes copying and pasting content from other sources, claiming another reporter's work as your own, or inventing information. Understanding the serious consequences of academic misconduct beyond a failing grade is important, so please review the policy thoroughly.

AI Policy: Students are prohibited from using AI tools to generate, write, or substantially edit news reports. All stories written for WUFT must be the student's original work. The use of AI to write or significantly alter the content of news reports is prohibited. Students *may* use AI tools for research and fact-checking purposes. If AI tools are used for research, students must properly cite and attribute any information obtained from these tools. Using AI to generate content submitted as the student's work will be considered plagiarism and subject to the university's academic integrity policies. Students must disclose any use of AI tools in their research process.

You Matter: *Asking for help is a sign of strength*. 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 campus by encouraging us to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a community member is in need. If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, or call 352-392-1575 24/7. You can also visit them at their walk-in clinic on the 4th floor of Peabody Hall (located near Libary West). The *U Matter, We Care Team* can also help connect students to various support resources. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities can request accommodations by registering with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565,https://disability.ufl.edu/students/accommodations/). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting an accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester

Assignments

Audio Productions:

Most of your work and grade will come from reporting and producing audio stories. While much of the work will be for the sake of growing your skills, some of the work will also be for broadcast on WUFT in either *Morning Edition* or *All Things Considered* as part of **Segment D** (see clock below):
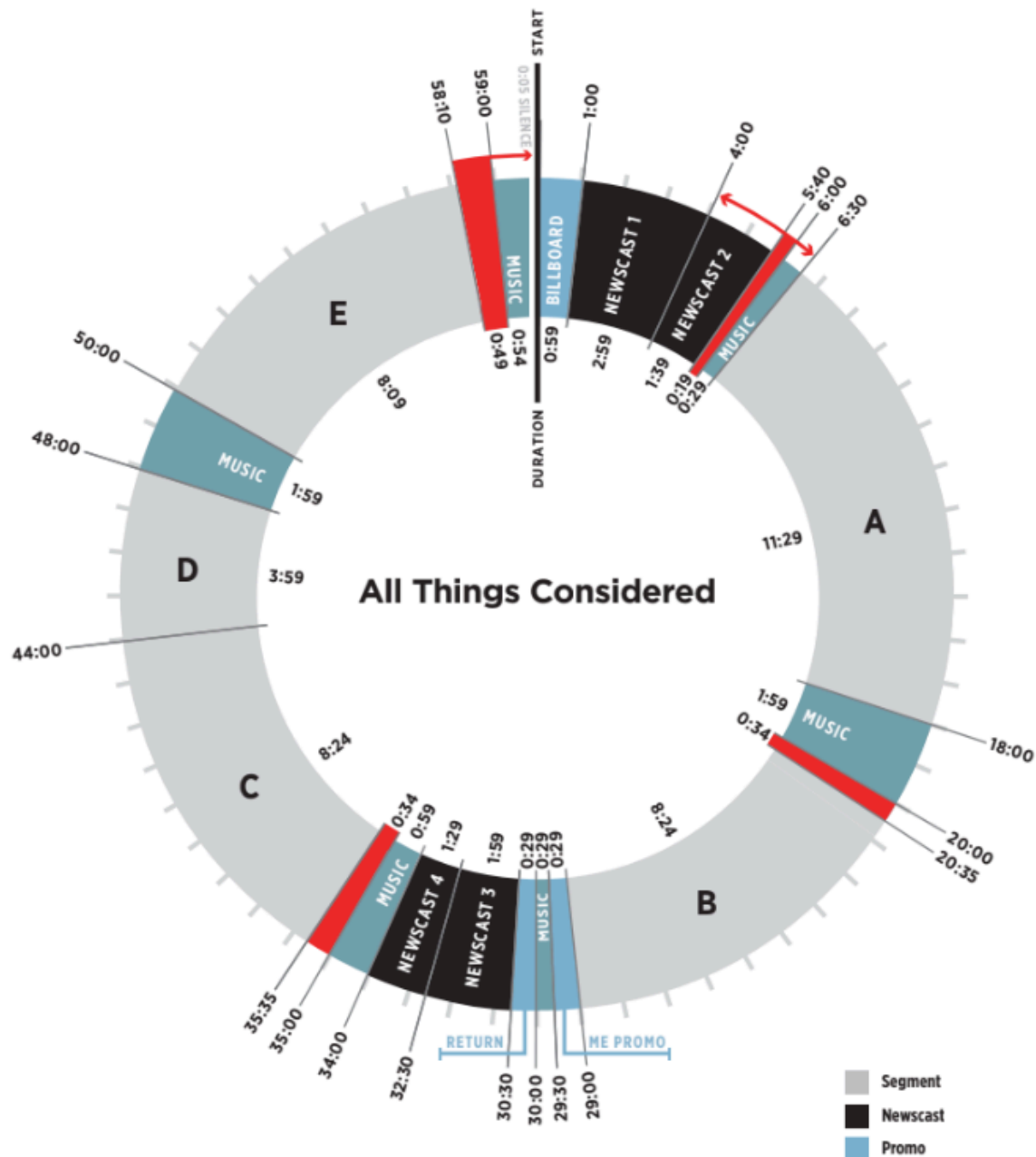
Assignments/Quizzes:

You will be given a weekly quiz starting with week two of the course. They'll include questions that ensure you consume local, state, national, and international news. Consumption of such stories will also help grow your understanding of what great audio stories sound like.

Attendance and Make-ups

This is a deadline profession. Per the UF attendance policy, an absence is unexcused unless you provide the instructor notice in advance, with documentation after the fact. Regardless of why you miss class, you must inform the professor beforehand. In-class work missed for unexcused absences earns zero points and may not be made up. In-class work missed during an excused absence must be made up within seven days of the absence. Late-class arrivals and early departures are noted and may count against your Punctuality grade. *Missing more than 30 minutes of a class session is an absence*.

Grading Scale:

Assignment	Percentage		Grade	Score
Punctuality	5%		A	93-100
Participation	5%		A-	90-92
Quiz (weekly & in class)	30%		B+	89-87
Audio Productions	60%		B	86-83
Final Exam	(none)		B-	82-80
			C+	79-77
			C	76-73
			C-	72-70
			D+	69-67
			D	66-63
			D-	62-60
			E	Below 60

COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor may change this schedule as needed. The dates below correspond to the Friday dates of class. Each week *begins on a Friday, when work is assigned in class, and ends seven days later*. For example, assignments from January 24th are due by the next Thursday – and would be considered the "Week 2" assignment.

Week 1	January 17	Syllabus Review // Advanced Lexicon // Journey in Sound
Week 2	January 24	Studs Terkel // Interview Tips // Audition Refresher // Diagraming
Week 3	January 31	Descript refresher // Interview Tips II // DUE: Facilitated Interview
Week 4	February 7	Idea generation // Pitching // Advanced Audio Editing
Week 5	February 14	Robert Smith // Reporter Two-ways review // Tape sync exercise
Week 6	February 21	Field Recording checklist // Technical tips // DUE: Reporter Two-way
Week 7	February 28	Before you start // The first track // Sleeping cats
Week 8	March 7	Documentary: Plowright // Building the story
Week 9	March 14	Dave Isay: Ghetto Life // DUE: Non-narrated project
Week 10	March 21	SPRING BREAK
Week 11	March 28	Active Tape // Audition music editing and cautions
Week 12	April 4	Presentation skills // Features checklist // Campfire Tales
Week 13	April 11	Podcasting Tips // Written draft of final feature review
Week 14	April 18	DUE: Final Feature review and mix
Week 15	April 25	READING DAYS
	May 2	EXAM WEEK

Advanced Audio Storytelling Rubric	
Student Name:	
Project Title:	

Execution: How well did the student understand and/or execute the lab <u>as assigned</u>? Were the session and individual files saved and named properly?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Sound and Technical: Is this an excellent audio recording? Is the primary mix easily heard and understood above the other tracks (like music or ambiance)?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Editing: Are edits and fades smooth? Are there gaps of silence? Are there audible sounds that should have been removed? Is the final mix leveled and balanced?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Creativity: How well did the student use active or natural sounds to communicate a message? Were these sounds (or music) layered effectively?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Value and engagement: Is there a clear beginning, middle, and end? How well did the project keep your attention with dialogue, direction, and the linear arc of storytelling?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Name _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

What's your working knowledge of any of the following (check all that apply):

.	Portable audio gear	.	Podcast Production	.	Audio Production
.	SoundCloud	.	Audition / ProTools	.	Adobe Premiere
.	Zencastr / Riverside	.	Descript	.	Airtable
.	Radio Station	.		.	

Please share your top three podcast/broadcast programs. Include any related to news, too. Write a sentence or two about why you listen to each one.

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Please share a bit about your background or career goals.

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As a student reporter, what fields might you be interested in covering (check all that apply):

.	Immigration	.	Elections	.	Business	.	Rural areas
.	Arts & Culture	.	Environment	.	Economics	.	Aviation
.	Housing	.	Addiction	.	Science / Energy	.	LGBTQ
.	History / Culture	.	Human Interest	.	Health	.	Religion/spirituality
.	Government	.	Transportation	.	Crime	.	Veterans