

RTV3502C: Fundamentals of Sports Production (Wednesday Section)

Fall 2025

College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

Instructor: Geoff Thompson
Place: WEIMER 3020

***LIVE CLASS MEETING: Wednesday 155-455 ***

*** Final Exam: 12/12/2025 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ON CANVAS ***

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

Course Text: *None*

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.

***** PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL NEED TO BRING PEN/PENCIL AND PAPER TO CLASS IN ORDER TO TAKE NOTES. I WILL NOT MAKE POWERPOINTS AVAILABLE. IF YOU MISS A CLASS, IT IS UP TO YOU TO GET THE NOTES FROM A CLASSMATE. YOU MAY ALSO ATTEND THE OTHER SECTION *****

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 basic camera functions, and how to shoot/edit highlight packages
- (4) Understand industry standards with equipment, skills, and concepts

(5) 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
Highlight Reel Projects	100 pts each for first two 200 pts for final = 400 pts
Quizzes (via Canvas)	5 x 10 pts each = 50
In-Class/Camera Assignments	4 x 50 pts each = 200
Final	100 pts
Total	750 pts

Assignment Descriptions

- **Assembling highlight reels (400 points):** You will assemble two highlight reels from existing footage, one set to music, one is a VO/SOT. For your final project, you will attend a Gator sports event, gather footage/nat sound, and edit two highlight reels from that event.
- **Current events quizzes (50 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
- **Camera Exercises (200 points) –** Part of this class is understanding camera operation and how to shoot/edit. In order to prepare you to go out and shoot events, you will have several in-class camera exercises.
- **Final Exam (100 points) –** During the final exam period (12.12.25, 10am-12pm) - Multiple choice test via Canvas, based on lectures.

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

93.5%-100%	A	89.5%-93.4%	A-	
86.5%-89.4%	B+	82.5%-86.4%	B	79.5%-82.4%
76.5%-79.4%	C+	72.5%-76.4%	C	69.5%-72.4%
66.5%-69.4%	D+	62.5%-66.4%	D	59.5%-62.4%
0-59.4%	F			

Course Outline (subject to change – Check Canvas for the most up-to-date schedule)

Week 1 (8.27)	● Introduction to class ● History of sports broadcasting
Week 2 (9.3)	● Shooting and Composition ● Cameras
Week 3 (9.10)	● Editing ● Hype and highlight reels
Week 4 (9.17)	● ESPN & <i>Monday Night Football</i>
Week 5 (9.24)	● Camera Assignment

Week 6 (10.1)	• Intro to TV GFX
Week 7 (10.8)	• First Highlight Reel Due
Week 8 (10.15)	• Camera Assignment
Week 9 (10.22)	• In-class assignment – Highlight Reel Narration
Week 10 (10.29)	• Camera Assignment
Week 11 (11.5)	• Second Highlight Reel Due
Week 12 (11.12)	NO CLASS
Week 13 (11.19)	• Camera Assignment
Week 14 (11.26)	• HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Week 15 (12.3)	• The rise of REMIs • Final Project Due

Policies

Professional Conduct

You will be attending UF sporting events as a media professional. That means you are expected to act as a media professional, following all rules and professional standards. Failure to live up to these rules will result in automatic failure of this class.

Use of AI to complete assignments is prohibited

Academic Policies:

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the "Get Started With the DRC" webpage on the Disability Resource Center site.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.
- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies.](#)

- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:
 1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
 2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
 3. The central portal at <https://my-uf1.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and deliver by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course.

A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action

instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Resources:

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at [352-392-4357](tel:352-392-4357) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, [352-392-1601](tel:352-392-1601). Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call [866-281-6309](tel:866-281-6309) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](tel:352-392-2010), or to make a private appointment: [352-392-6420](tel:352-392-6420). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](tel:352-846-1138) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.