JOU4201 Sections INCA (20942), 1NCB (20943)

NEWS CENTER PRACTICUM:
INC JUMPSTART (INTRO TO STATIONS/NEWSROOM)
SPRING 2016 SYLLABUS   MARK LEEPS mleeps@wuft.org

Basics
We'll meet weekly for physical and mental exploration of the spaces, tools, workflows and products related to the UF Innovation News Center (INC).
Section INCA meets Wednesdays 9:35am-10:25am (Weimer 3024)
Section INCB meets Fridays 9:35am-10:25am (Weimer 3024)

It's very important that everyone is always on time because of the "guided tour" nature of many of the classroom sessions.

(Canvas will only have a basic shell for grading…always contact Mark by email at mleeps@wuft.org.)

Instructor's office hours: M/W 1pm-2pm (Weimer 1013)

Text
There is no text required for this course, but you may receive a number of handouts and that information could be included on quizzes. Many of these handouts will be actual industry materials that we should destroy after using and not redistribute in any form.

Course
This section of JOU4201 (News Center Practicum) is meant to serve as an Intro to the UF broadcast news operations and INC (newsroom) operations. You will get a broad survey of all our stations and many of our current newsroom products and operations. We will also discuss the history of different areas like radio and tv, both in terms of the US industries and in terms of UF stations.

Calendar Notes
UF Spring 2026: classes begin MONDAY 01/12
UF Spring 2026: Holidays…
          01/19 MONDAY: MLK Day
          03/16-03/20: Spring Break
UF Spring 2026: classes end WEDNESDAY 04/22

Objectives & Course Schedule

Goal 1: Exploring Weimer & understanding some of its history/operations
Goal 2: Understanding UF Radio Stations
Goal 3: Understanding UF TV Stations
Goal 4 Exploring Spanish-language news operations
Goal 5: Exploring Sports operations and products (and Sports courses)
Goal 6: Exploring Weather operations and products (FPREN, MITS, UF M&C)
Goal 7: Understanding product workflow: newsletter
Goal 8: Intro to TV News Assignment Editing
Goal 9: Intro to TV News Producing (and Producing courses)

Grading

- **40% - Classroom Attendance** ==Attendance is mandatory==, as is "classroom professionalism", even while "on tour" we don't want to be disruptive to the work being done or distracting to classmates trying to learn. *Cellphones and computers should never be used or out in the open during class time,* they should be stored for afterward. Attendance starts as 400 points in Canvas and each missed class lowers your attendance grade by 10 points if unexcused. We want you to experience all the flavors of workflow we're exploring and we generally cannot arrange make-ups, so we want you there unless you are truly sick, then we want you to stay out and get better. Missing class is likely to also hurt your knowledge base for the next quiz in the course.

- **60% A series of up to 6 quizzes** Each will be 10 questions totalling 100 points in Canvas. The material will come from our tour information, handouts, and "treasure hunt" info sheets we'll complete as we go.

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

Academic Policies & Campus Resources
UF students should know all academic policies and be aware of campus resources. You can find this information online at https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies

Cost Considerations
I will provide many handouts so there is no text and no equipment fee. You will need basic computer access (email, word processing, internet), but do not need specialty software like audio/video editing.

Feedback & Evaluations
Although almost all our work will be accomplished outside of Canvas, there will be a minimal shell for this course which will allow easier tracking of grades. Please contact me in person or by email (mleeps@wuft.org) for any question you have throughout the course; please do not use the messaging system in Canvas. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of the instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online.