

JOU4201 Sections INCJ (23965), 1C12 (18861)

NEWS CENTER PRACTICUM:

INC JUMPSTART (INTRO TO STATIONS/NEWSROOM)

FALL 2025 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 INCJ meets Mondays 10:40am-11:30am (Weimer 1070)

Section 1C12 meets Thursdays 10:40am-11:30am (Weimer 2052)

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 Fall 2025: classes begin THURSDAY 08/21

UF Fall 2025: Holidays...

09/01 MONDAY: Labor Day

10/17 FRIDAY: Homecoming

11/11 TUESDAY: Veterans Day

11/24-11/28 MONDAY-FRIDAY: Fall Break

UF Fall 2025: classes end WEDNESDAY 12/14

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/syllabuspolices>

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.