



Online: Weds 4:05 p.m. - 7:05 p.m.

Instructor: Tom Hudson

Telephone: 312-545-7246

Email: tghudson@gmail.com

This course will be taught online. This course will utilize online video platform Zoom. Please take the following actions before Jan. 12, 2026, 4:05 p.m. ET:

- Download the Zoom app

- Test out your Zoom app, including video and audio capabilities

Each class has a Zoom meeting link. Look for each class period on the course's Canvas site.

[CLICK HERE TO SKIP TO CLASS SCHEDULE](#)

Course description:

This seminar will explore different interview styles, and most importantly, how to solicit meaningful and revealing answers from subjects, and how to responsibly use what is gathered.

Through reading, viewing and listening to a spectrum of interviews, research and closely examining structure and substance, students will gain new insights in how to prepare, conduct and use interviews in their fields of study.

The journalism interview can be a highly orchestrated affair or a quick exchange. It may be over text messages or in hushed tones sitting knee-to-knee. Conducting effective and ethical interviews is a primary tool for journalists to gather and understand stories. These skills are applicable across many fields including health, law, sciences and engineering.

Students will study the structure and substance of a range of interviews. They will gain new understandings on how to prepare, conduct and responsibly use interviews.

Objectives:

This course strives to enable students to:

- Prepare and execute successful professional interviews for a range of purposes and across a wide range of professions
- Write clearly, concisely, truthfully and grammatically correct
- Critically evaluate and edit work

REQUIRED READING/Viewing/Listening:

Digital Wall Street Journal

Digital New York Times

Economist

[UF Libraries logins for New York Times, Wall Street Journal and the Economist](#)

[CBS News, 60 Minutes](#)

[Fresh Air, NPR](#)

[HARDTalk BBC](#)

Others

REQUIRED BOOKS

Grobel, Lawrence. The Art of the Interview. Three Rivers Press, 2004
ISBN: 1400050715

Headlee, Celeste, We Need to Talk: How to Have Conversations That Matter, Harper Wave, 2018
ISBN: 006266901X

Nelson, Dean. Talk to Me: How to Ask Better Questions, Get Better Answers, and Interview Anyone Like a Pro. HarperPerennial, 2019
ISBN: 0062825208

Murphy, Kate. You're Not Listening, Celadon, 2021
ISBN: 1250779871

YOUR CONDUCT AS A STUDENT

UF Student Honor Code

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

ZOOM PROFESSIONALISM

- Please maintain professional conduct when class meets online.
- Have your camera on during Zoom sessions. Points deducted if not.
- Use virtual backgrounds to protect the privacy of your environment or surroundings.
- Zoom lectures will be recorded.

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

ATTENDANCE

Zoom automatically takes attendance, including duration.

University attendance and illness policies are here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

STANDARD PROFESSIONAL FORMATTING:

Assignments and other written communication with the professor must be professionally formatted. In all emails, write into the subject line a theme and your full name. Do not send emails to the professor with a blank subject line.

ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment has a specific due date and time. Canvas logs when you make a submission. Late assignments are not eligible for the full points. All assignments must be submitted on Canvas. No assignments will be accepted via email.

Deadlines are a part of life and they are firm. Students will receive a zero for work that is not turned in at all. A missed deadline is a failed assignment.

All written assignments must have an information block with the following information on the upper left hand side of the first page:

Your Name

Name of Assignment

Deadline date

JOU4930-27489 Instructor: Hudson

email@email.com

C 555-555-5555

All assignments need to be written in AP Style.

Indicate the end of a writing assignment with this symbol: #. Center it on a page and surround it by white space a few lines below the last line of text so that the symbol stands out. If the work runs more than a single page, indicate that there is more by centering the word, “more,” in the same way on every page. When submitting a revision, add the word, “revised,” to the subject line and replace the date of the original assignment with the date of the revision.

ONLINE TOOLS:

The Poynter Institute’s brief online workshops and classes that target universally useful aspects of writing across all fields, The Poynter Institute <http://www.newsu.org/>; Purdue University Writing Lab, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap/>;

Duke University's guide to writing English as a second language,
<http://twp.duke.edu/twp-writing-studio/resources/esl-efl-resources>;
NPR Training: <https://training.npr.org/>;
Grammar: <http://www.grammarbook.com/>
AP Style: <http://journalism.about.com/od/writing/a/apstyle.htm>,
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/journalism_and_journalistic_writing/ap_style.html

REMOTE LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

This class will be entirely remote. All attendance will be through its own Zoom meeting link. Students who are attending a class session synchronously are required to have their video enabled. The instructor may direct students when they can disable video and mute audio.

RECORDINGS

Students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Meetings of this course might be recorded by the University. Any recordings will be available to students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

To Get an A:

- o Students must demonstrate an ability to write with clarity, accuracy, objectivity and originality, using AP style.
- o Students must learn news and information gathering skills, including direct observation and use of primary and secondary sources, with an understanding of plagiarism and its consequences.
- o Students must learn interviewing skills, including researching stories, identifying sources, developing questions and attributing quotes and paraphrasing, with an understanding of fabrication. Students will also learn how to take good notes and use proper recording techniques.
- o Students must learn the distinctive characteristics and formats used by newspapers, magazines, television, radio and online publications.
- o Students must learn to make knowledge of current events a priority.

To Fail:

- Students who miss more than two classes without prior approval or are chronically tardy.
- Students who commit plagiarism described below under the Honor Code.
- Students who do not complete in class and homework assignments.

Why do students perform below their expectations in this class?

Students tend to do worse than they expect in this class for the following reasons:

- Overestimating their writing skills. The writing in this class often is different from other types of writing students have practiced in high school and other college courses.
- Not attending class regularly. Each class introduces skills that build upon the previous class. Many assignments will be started during class. Missing class means a student misses important instructions.
- Late assignments or not turning in assignments. This is self-explanatory.
- Not following the proper format for each submission, such as failing to double-space every submission.
- Emailing homework submissions instead of submitting homework on Canvas. No assignments are accepted via email. All submissions must be made on Canvas.
- Showing no signs of improvement in their demonstrable skills throughout the semester. This is a telltale sign of a student simply not trying. Effort and an improving trajectory of one's writing skills is key.
- Not seeking out guidance early in the semester. All requests for one-on-one meetings are accepted and scheduled, usually within two days.
- Not participating regularly in class discussions.

GRADING:

Letter grades will be assigned in accordance with the University Grading Scale:

A+ 97.00 to 100.00	C 74.00 to 76.00
A 93.00 to 96.00	C- 70.00 to 73.00
A- 90.00 to 92.00	D+ 67.00 to 69.00
B+ 87.00 to 89.00	D 64.00 to 66.00
B 84.00 to 86.00	D- 60.00 to 63.00
B- 80.00 to 83.00	F 0.00 to 59.00
C+ 77.00 to 79.00	

PROPORTIONAL BREAKDOWN OF CLASS WORK:

Engagement	25 percent
Assignments	75 percent

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT

Tom Hudson is the copyright owner of the courseware; individual recordings of the materials and/or of the virtual sessions are not allowed; and that such materials cannot be shared outside the physical or virtual classroom environment.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

AI technology is a fact of life. However, use of AI in your writing does not absolve you of your responsibilities as a writer – to be accurate, fair and compelling. AI is not a replacement for your judgment or actions as a writer.

No work may be turned in that is not generated solely by the student. No work generated by any artificial intelligence program will be accepted.

The use of AI in submissions will result in a 0 for that assignment and submissions cannot be redone.

A report will be filed for academic misconduct if AI is included in an assignment submission.

The use of fake sources, fake stories, made-up facts and generative artificial intelligence written submissions will result in a 0 for the assignment and an academic misconduct report will be filed.

You are 100% responsible for your final product. You are the user; if you use an AI tool and that AI tool makes a mistake, then it's your mistake. You are entirely responsible for your submissions.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours shall be held virtually via Zoom. Students may email requests for a meeting. The instructor shall respond within 48 hours. The instructor shall have virtual office hours between 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Mondays at this Zoom link:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91776500305?pwd=7WC4qwmMAOERnGiQoxyFeK4Ub22hli.1>

Meeting ID: 917 7650 0305

Passcode: 693351

It is recommended to communicate with the instructor prior to appearing at an office hour to ensure a useful and efficient dialogue.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Class #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Assignment Given</u>	<u>Assignment Due</u>
Class 1	Jan. 14	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Media diet</p> <p>Guest speaker - Debra Fine</p>	<p>1. 200 word essay on your diet media</p> <p>2. 10 questions for guest speaker</p> <p>3. Reading for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Art of the Interview</i>, chapters 1-2 • <i>Talk to Me</i>, Introduction • <i>We Need to Talk</i>, chapters 1-2 	<p>1. Jan. 16, 5 p.m.</p> <p>2. Jan 16, 5 p.m.</p> <p>3. Jan. 21, 4 p.m.</p>
Class 2	Jan. 21	<p>Reading discussion</p> <p>Interview prep</p> <p>Final Project discussion - click here for assignment</p> <p>Writing assignment #1 introduction</p> <p>Guest Speaker - Michele Steele</p>	<p>1. Writing assignment #1</p> <p>2. 10 questions for guest speaker</p> <p>3. Reading for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art of the Interview</i>, chapter 5 • <i>Talk to Me</i>, chapters 4-5, 7-8 • <i>We Need to Talk</i>, chapter 5 <p>4. Case study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Talk to Me</i>, pg. 47-52 	<p>1. Jan. 23, 4 p.m.</p> <p>2. Jan. 23, 4 p.m.</p> <p>3. Jan. 28, 4 p.m.</p> <p>4. Jan. 28, 4 p.m.</p>

Class 3	Jan. 28	<p>Reading discussion</p> <p>Interview analysis case study</p> <p>Interview uses</p> <p>Writing assignment #2 introduction</p>	<p>1. Writing assignment #2</p> <p>2. Reading for discussion –</p> <p>3. Case study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Art of the Interview</i>, Appendix 2 <p>4. Prep Final Project subject pitch</p>	<p>1. Jan. 30, 4 p.m.</p> <p>2. Feb. 4, 4 p.m.</p> <p>3. Feb. 4, 4 p.m.</p> <p>4. Feb. 4, 4 p.m.</p>
Class 4	Feb. 4	<p>Case study</p> <p>Interview styles</p> <p>Final Project Pitches</p>	<p>1. Final Project introduction draft and 10 questions</p> <p>2. Case study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Talk to Me</i>, pg. 204-224 	<p>1. Feb. 11, 4 p.m.</p> <p>2. Feb. 11, 4 p.m.</p>
Class 5	Feb. 11	<p>Case study</p> <p>Guest speaker - Law Enforcement - Martha Singleton</p> <p>Final Project discussion</p> <p>Writing assignment #3 introduction</p>	<p>1. 10 questions for guest speaker</p> <p>2. Writing assignment #3</p>	<p>1. Feb. 13, 4 p.m.</p> <p>2. Feb. 18, 4 p.m.</p>

Class 6	Feb. 18	Peer reviews Writing assignment #4 introduction	1. Second draft of Assignment #3 2. Writing assignment #4 3. Prep 10 questions for next guest speaker 4. Reading for discussion – <i>Talk to Me</i> ,	1. Feb. 20, 4 p.m. 2. Feb. 25, 4 p.m. 3. Feb. 25, 4 p.m. 4. Feb. 25, 4 p.m.
Class 7	Feb. 25	Reading discussion Assignment #4 discussion Guest speaker: Bruce Turkel	1. Writing assignment #5 2. Reading for discussion – <i>You're Not Listening</i> - chapters 1-8	1. Mar. 4, 4 p.m. 2. Mar. 11, 4 p.m.
	Mar. 4	NO CLASS		
Class 9	Mar. 11	Reading discussion Final Project check-in & discussion	1. Reading for discussion – <i>You're Not Listening</i> - chapters 9-17	1. Apr. 1, 4 p.m.
	Mar. 18	NO CLASS		
	Mar. 25	NO CLASS		

Class 11	Apr. 1	Guest speaker - Dr. Lujain Alhajji, psychiatry Reading discussion Assignment #6 discussion	1. 10 questions for guest speaker 2. Writing Assignment #6	1. Apr. 3, 4 p.m. 2. Apr. 8, 4 p.m.
Class 12	Apr. 8	Assignment #6 presentations & discussion		
Class 13	Apr. 15	Final Project check-in & discussion	1. Final Project	1. Apr. 22, 4 p.m.
Class 14	Apr. 22	Apply course learnings to job hunt Guest speaker - Tom Kavan	1. 10 questions for guest speaker	1. Apr. 24, 4 p.m.
FINAL	Apr. 29	Final project in-class presentations		

**(IF YOU MADE IT THIS FAR, KEEP GOING. SIGN AND RETURN THE
FOLLOWING PAGES BY Jan. 21, 2026 AT 4:05 p.m. ET FOR EXTRA CREDIT.)**

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED AND READ THE SYLLABUS FOR JOU4930-27489, Spring 2026.

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____, 2026

Publication Notice

This course emphasizes applied skills and the production and publication of news stories and creative work— both in terms of text and multimedia. What we produce in this class, as submitted by you or as later edited and modified, may be published and displayed by the University.

Therefore, we require your consent to such uses of the material you produce individually or as part of a team effort as well as your consent to use your name and likeness. Unless you are working on a special project that requires an assignment of ownership rights and you agree to that assignment, you own your own work, as far as the University is concerned. You may use your own work for your portfolio and your own purposes. If you have any questions about the consent form below, please let your professor know. Thank you.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND CONSENT:

I agree and understand that images (e.g., photographs and video) of my likeness, recordings of my voice and stories i have written or helped produce, shoot or edit, may appear in websites, various publications, other media and in related materials produced or published by the University of Florida and/or any of its employees, agents, licensees or contractors (collectively, “UF”). My signature below grants the following rights to UF: the right to use and re-use, license, publish and republish, modify, exhibit, transmit, obtain, and make derivative uses of any stories, articles, photographs, broadcasts, films, videotapes, images or recordings (“WORKS”) of me or made or created by me, in whole or in part, or in which I may have participated as a student in JOU4930. I agree that these WORKS may be used for editorial, promotional, trade, advertising, commercial, educational and any other lawful purpose in any medium now existing or subsequently developed. My agreement is a grant of worldwide rights in perpetuity.

SIGNED: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ DATE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

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