RTV 3945 - INC Audio Immersion - Fall 2025

Instructor: David Barasoain

Room: INC

Periods: TBD

Time: (scheduled with instructor)

Email: dbarasoain@ufl.edu

Phone: 352-294-1500

Textbook: (none) Handouts will be provided throughout the term.

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

SPRING SEMESTER 2026

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Jan.					1 (Holiday)	2 (Registration)	3
	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	18
	19	20	21	22	23 (Reading Days)	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		
May						1 (Commencement)	2

Welcome! This immersion course will introduce you to the world of audio, podcasting, reporting, and "storytelling for the ear" - these are stories that are meant to be heard. No prior audio or reporting knowledge is required. You'll get hands-on training in news gathering, writing, interviewing, and reporting. You'll also learn how to plan and record interviews, edit audio, and – as time allows – use your voice to tell a story. You'll apply your skills in real-world scenarios, producing content for podcasts and broadcast. Think of this class as a chance to follow your curiosity, explore our local community, and expand your audio-based journalism skills. This immersion course requires a weekly shift of (up to) six hours in the Innovation News Center (INC). Class times are arranged directly with the instructor.

Course Objectives and Goals

1. Writing for broadcast: You'll learn to write news stories that meet the standards required for short newscast stories (sound stories) and more in-depth pieces (voicers, wraps, and super spots).

2. Field and Phone Audio Recording: You'll learn to record high-quality interviews in the field or over the phone. You'll also learn how to edit audio for broadcasts/podcasts using Audition and Descript.

3. Real-World Application: The work you'll produce is for broadcast. This deadline-driven work will be used on the radio and/or published digitally or as part of a podcast.

4. Audio Editing: You'll get first-hand experience learning and producing with Descript and Adobe Audition.

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This course is Pass / Fail. Attendance for your weekly shift is the primary record of accomplishment, along with your development and service to the INC. We need help from Immersion students for two (consecutive or non-consecutive) **3-hour blocks**.

Required Equipment: None. Everything is provided by the INC newsroom.

Course Evaluation: While this is a Pass/Fail course, students are still expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction given during the term. 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.

University of Florida Academic Policies and Resources:
https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Ethical Warning: You really will be working as a journalist for this class. Because of this, you must not interview family members, 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 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.

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 Honor Code, available at https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

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. 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. *However, students may use AI tools for research and to verify agencies and facts, like data points. If AI tools are used for research, students must properly cite and attribute any information obtained from these tools. If ever in doubt, please consult your instructor.*

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 Library 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.

Innovation News Center work: The most significant part of this class is the requirement to learn and work inside the WUFT newsroom alongside reporters, producers, anchors, and hosts. Throughout the semester, you'll work a shift in the Innovation News Center (the INC) of up to six hours per week. Your attendance, punctuality, and overall growth are how you'll be graded. If you know you'll need to miss a shift for any planned reason, *please inform Professor Dave in writing with plenty of notice*.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor may modify this schedule as needed.

Week 1	Aug. 25	The INC and you
Week 2	Sept. 1	News terms and software we'll use this term.
Week 3	Sept. 8	Audition training
Week 4	Sept. 15	Audio interview, editing with Descript, folding in sound.
Week 5	Sept. 22	Understanding recorders
Week 6	Sept. 29	"Descript" training and why it matters
Week 7	Oct. 6	Your story and story interests
Week 8	Oct. 13	Understanding writing
Week 9	Oct. 20	Studio controls and editing interviews
Week 10	Oct. 27	Working with a reporter
Week 11	Nov. 3	Deadlines matter
Week 12	Nov. 11	Team dynamics and building toward a common goal
Week 13	Nov. 17	Life behind the microphone
Week 14	Nov. 24	*No class: Thanksgiving*
Week 15	Dec. 1	A future story
	Dec. 8	EXAM WEEK

Name _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

1. Do you have a car that you can use here at UF (**YES** / **NO**)
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, ==be honest==, how excited are you to be in this class: _____

    (Where 1 = your mom said you had to // 5 = it's fine, I'm here // 10 = Let's go!)

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

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

4. Please share your top three podcast/radio programs. Include a sentence about why you

listen – or what they mean to you:

_____

_____

_____

5. Please share a bit of your background (==including reporting experience==) and/or career goals.

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_____

_____

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

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

Here are some specific lessons you'll learn through the term:

1. Great audio stoires matter. Take a walk and [listen to EACH of these stories](#).