

Reality TV and Influencer Media 3451-Spring 2026 Syllabus

Course: **RTV3451: Reality TV and Influencer Media |**

Times: Online

Instructor: Maria Esterline

Email: esterlinemaria@ufl.edu

Office Hours: 7-9pm Wednesdays
(Weimer 2095) via virtual appointments.

Textbook: No textbook required

Communication Methods for Online Students The instructor work normal weekday hours (i.e., Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.). If you email during this time, you can expect a reply in 24 hours during the weekdays and 48 hours on the weekend. If you email on the weekend or after hours, please do not expect an immediate reply. If an assignment is due at 11 p.m. and you email us with an issue at 9 p.m., it is not likely that you will hear back before the assignment due. Please plan accordingly.

For questions pertaining to all course content: Email: Maria Esterline at esterlinemaria@ufl.edu

Office Hours: 7-9pm Wednesdays, virtual office hours by appointment only. Please email me a couple of time and date options that are convenient for you.

Email is the preferred method of communication for this course. You can use Canvas mail, but standard email ensures a more immediate reply.

Please do not ask questions in the “comments” section of an assignment. The instructor do not get an individual ping when a comment is left, so we will not know that they are there and so will not respond in a timely manner.

For technical issues with Canvas, please contact E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu.
<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Course Description:

Reality television is everywhere. With a focus on “real life”, reality TV can make regular television seem boring. But, just how real is the “Real World,” when people have their lives taped, edited, packaged, and produced for an audience? This online course examines the impact of reality television on our celebrity obsessed American society

where now anyone can have their 15-minutes of fame or vote for their new favorite “Idol”.

Course Objectives:

- The primary objective of this course is to provide students with the tools to critically analyze reality television and popular culture, and to understand them within the broader social context of American society and entertainment.
- Explain the role of reality television and popular entertainment in America and the world.
- Understand how reality television has led to greater media convergence between television, social media, and audience involvement.
- Explain the various categories within Reality TV realms.

Course Content:

<u>Modules</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Module 1	Introduction to Reality TV Media
Module 2	Historical Roots of Reality TV
Module 3	Genres of Reality TV Shows
Module 4	Growth of Reality TV
Module 5	Media Convergence, Interactivity, and Social Media
Module 6	Reality Sitcoms and the Docusoap
Module 7	The Dating Programs
Module 8	Makeover/Renovation Programs
Module 9	Reality TV Stars
Module 10	Effect of Streaming Services in Reality TV
Final Project	Reality TV Presentation Project

Course Grading:

- Weekly Assignments: 40%
- Discussions: 30%
- Final Project: 30%

Course Policies:

University Honor Code

The University of Florida has a standardized code for instructors which states:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

As students, you have a commitment to academic honesty as well, and it is as follows: *I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the university.*

There are six specific types of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines: cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication. Take this commitment to academic honesty and integrity seriously. For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261.

Disability Awareness

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must submit a documentation letter to the professor when requesting accommodation. Please notify me at the beginning of the semester if you would like to discuss requests for special provisions. **Please allow 48 hours for provisions to be put into place.**

Class Attendance Policy Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Academic Honesty The work you submit for this course must be your own. It must be original for this course. You must never use direct or paraphrased material from any source, including Web sites, without attribution. You may not submit anything that you wrote for another class, or that you wrote as a volunteer or intern. You may not submit anything that was written for any purpose other than the given assignment.

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 Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of TAs in this class. You can review UF's academic honesty guidelines in detail at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/seminars-modules/academic-integrity-module>

Any time you complete an assignment for this course you will clearly attribute the source of your information, including information obtained from organizations' Web sites or internal documents. You cannot copy anything word for word, regardless of the source without putting quotes around it and attributing the source.

Grading and Late Policy All assignments are due on the specified dates. Any assignment turned in late will be assessed penalty points per calendar day. Assignments should be submitted via proper procedure in Canvas and not emailed or included in comments section. Computer problems are typically not considered an excuse for late or no submissions. You should continually check your computer or software performance to ensure you can submit assignments.

Late assignments will receive an automatic grade reduction of 10 points every 24 hours (or portion thereof) beyond the time they are due. So if it's an hour late, it's a reduction of ten points. If it's 25 hours late, it's a reduction of twenty points...

Exceptions consistent with UF policies are allowed. Academic honesty is expected on all assignments and exams. Cheating or violations of the academic honor code will not be tolerated.

Grade components Final grades will be rounded up IF above .5 (For example, an 89.5 is an A-; an .2 is a B+)

Discussions To receive full credit, you must submit thoughtful comments in response to the posts from two other classmates. Students need to provide meaningful responses that demonstrate their comprehension of the lectures and respectfully respond to their peers. Students receiving partial credits when their response is incomplete, and they did not reply to their peers. A rubric is provided within canvas course.

Final Project : The final project will consist of creating a recorded presentation via powerpoint or canvas that included the research findings of an assigned Reality TV show throughout the course.

Final Letter Grades and %

A	92.4-100%
A-	89.5-92.4%
B+	86.5-89.4%
B	82.5-86.4%

B-	79.5-82.4%
C+	76.5-79.4%
C	72.5-76.4%
C-	69.5-72.4%
D+	66.5-69.4%
D	62.5-66.4%
D-	59.5-62.4%
F	59.4% and below

Important Dates Classes begin: January 12, 2026 Classes end: April 24 Holidays: Jan. 19: Martin Luther King | March 16-21: Spring Break|