

JOU 4201, Editing

Fall 2013, all sections

Instructor

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Office hours: Wednesdays, periods 8-9 (3:00p to 5:00p); Fridays, 5-6 (11:45a to 1:45p)

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About me: See my [website](#) or follow me (@bikeprof) on [Twitter](#)

About This Course

The editing course has been rebuilt this fall to become integrated into the Innovation News Center, Weimer's professional newsroom. The lecture will help prepare you to work in the INC, and the section for which you registered corresponds to the newsroom shift you will work.

In today's professional newsrooms, few people are purely editors. Everyone is also expected to produce news content. So part of your time will be spent creating content for classmates to edit – and part of your time will be spent editing the content others create.

Thus, this is a newsroom experience course in which you could be editing a story for WUFT.org one minute and running out the door to chase breaking news the next.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Be employable as a multi-platform journalist in a professional newsroom.
- Perform the job of a professional web producer/editor.
- Produce news content that engages the audience.
- Understand numeracy sufficiently to work as a professional journalist.

Required Textbooks

Bring a print or digital version of the AP Stylebook with you to work in the INC.

Required Equipment

You can use the [equipment](#) the college already requires to capture pictures, audio and video. Better yet, use your smartphone and a few apps. More on that later.

Optional Calculator

For the numeracy test, you may use a basic, dedicated (not a phone) calculator that cannot be programmed. Any calculator that displays just one line for numbers is acceptable. Examples include calculators that fit in your hand, cost \$5, use solar power or have few buttons. Also OK are

financial calculators such as the HP 10b and scientific calculators such as the TI-30 series that may have two lines but cannot be programmed.

Unacceptable are devices that can store data and thus can be used for cheating. Most prominent in this forbidden category is a programmable calculator such as a TI-84 (which has a larger, multi-line display used for graphing functions). Also forbidden are tablets and cellphones.

Calculators will be inspected before the test. If you brought a forbidden device, you will have to use paper and pencil. Because sharing answers is easy if you share a calculator, you won't be able to use your neighbor's calculator, either.

Class Structure

Because this class involves both Web producing and content creation, your semester will be split between those two tasks. To be more specific, during the semester you will work seven five-hour shifts in the INC and will produce six multimedia news stories.

To facilitate this dual purpose, each of the 10 sections (one morning and one afternoon, five days a week) will be split in half by random assignment. Those in the Orange group will start the semester as web producers while the Blue group will start as content creators. The Orange group will attend the lecture and five-hour work shifts in the INC while the Blue group will attend neither and instead will use that time to create multimedia stories. Halfway through the semester, on Oct. 10, the two groups will switch roles.

Orange Group Schedule

Week of	Holidays, etc.	Lecture	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Aug. 19	Class starts Wed	Tools				INC 1	INC 1
Aug. 26		Editing	INC 1	INC 1	INC 1	INC 2	INC 2
Sept. 2	Labor D Mon; Rosh H. Thu*	Headlines	(holiday)	INC 2	INC 2	INC 3*	INC 3
Sept. 9		Concision	INC 2	INC 3	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4
Sept. 16		Numeracy	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4	INC 5	INC 5
Sept. 23		Numeracy	INC 4	INC 5	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6
Sept. 30		Numeracy	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6	INC 7	INC 7
Oct. 7		News	INC 6	INC 7	INC 7	Story 1	Story 1
Oct. 14		(skip)	Story 1	Story 1	Story 1	Story 2	Story 2
Oct. 21		(skip)	Story 2	Story 2	Story 2	Story 3	Story 3
Oct. 28		(skip)	Story 3	Story 3	Story 3	Story 4	Story 4
Nov. 4	Homecoming Fri	(skip)	Story 4	Story 4	Story 4	Story 5	Story 5
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Mon	(skip)	Story 5	Story 5	Story 5	Story 6	Story 6
Nov. 18		(skip)	Story 6	Story 6	Story 6		
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Wed-Thu-Fri	(not held)					
Dec. 2	Reading days Thu-Fri	(not held)					
Dec. 9	Finals week						

Because of Labor Day, those in the two Monday sections will have to sign up for a seventh shift on an open date. If you are in a Thursday section and you plan to observe Rosh Hashanah, let me know right away and sign up for a time to work your seventh INC shifts.

Blue Group Schedule

Week of	Holidays, etc.	Lecture	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Aug. 19	Class starts Wed	News					
Aug. 26		(skip)				Story 1	Story 1
Sept. 2	Labor D Mon; Rosh H. Thu*	(skip)	Story 1	Story 1	Story 1	Story 2	Story 2
Sept. 9		(skip)	Story 2	Story 2	Story 2	Story 3	Story 3
Sept. 16		(skip)	Story 3	Story 3	Story 3	Story 4	Story 4
Sept. 23		(skip)	Story 4	Story 4	Story 4	Story 5	Story 5
Sept. 30		(skip)	Story 5	Story 5	Story 5	Story 6	Story 6
Oct. 7		Tools	Story 6	Story 6	Story 6	INC 1	INC 1
Oct. 14		Editing	INC 1	INC 1	INC 1	INC 2	INC 2
Oct. 21		Headlines	INC 2	INC 2	INC 2	INC 3	INC 3
Oct. 28		Concision	INC 3	INC 3	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4
Nov. 4	Homecoming Fri	Numeracy	INC 4	INC 4	INC 4	INC 5	(holiday)
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Mon	Numeracy	(holiday)	INC 5	INC 5	INC 6	INC 5
Nov. 18		Numeracy	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6	INC 7	INC 6
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Wed-Thu-Fri	(not held)	INC 6	INC 7	(holiday)	(holiday)	(holiday)
Dec. 2	Reading days Thu-Fri	(not held)	INC 7		INC 7		
Dec. 9	Finals week						

Because of holidays, those in the two Friday sections will need to sign up for a seventh shift on an open date.

Master Schedule

Week of	Lecture	Web producers					Story creators				
		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Aug. 19	All				INC 1	INC 1					
Aug. 26	Orange	INC 1	INC 1	INC 1	INC 2	INC 2				Sty 1	Sty 1
Sept. 2	Orange	(open)	INC 2	INC 2	INC 3	INC 3	Sty 1	Sty 1	Sty 1	Sty 2	Sty 2
Sept. 9	Orange	INC 2	INC 3	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4	Sty 2	Sty 2	Sty 2	Sty 3	Sty 3
Sept. 16	Orange	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4	INC 5	INC 5	Sty 3	Sty 3	Sty 3	Sty 4	Sty 4
Sept. 23	Orange	INC 4	INC 5	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6	Sty 4	Sty 4	Sty 4	Sty 5	Sty 5
Sept. 30	Orange	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6	INC 7	INC 7	Sty 5	Sty 5	Sty 5	Sty 6	Sty 6
Oct. 7	All	INC 6	INC 7	INC 7	INC 1	INC 1	Sty 6	Sty 6	Sty 6	Sty 1	Sty 1
Oct. 14	Blue	INC 1	INC 1	INC 1	INC 2	INC 2	Sty 1	Sty 1	Sty 1	Sty 2	Sty 2
Oct. 21	Blue	INC 2	INC 2	INC 2	INC 3	INC 3	Sty 2	Sty 2	Sty 2	Sty 3	Sty 3
Oct. 28	Blue	INC 3	INC 3	INC 3	INC 4	INC 4	Sty 3	Sty 3	Sty 3	Sty 4	Sty 4
Nov. 4	Blue	INC 4	INC 4	INC 4	INC 5	(open)	Sty 4	Sty 4	Sty 4	Sty 5	Sty 5
Nov. 11	Blue	(open)	INC 5	INC 5	INC 6	INC 5	Sty 5	Sty 5	Sty 5	Sty 6	Sty 6
Nov. 18	Blue	INC 5	INC 6	INC 6	INC 7	INC 6	Sty 6	Sty 6	Sty 6		
Nov. 25		INC 6	INC 7	(open)	(close)	(close)					
Dec. 2		INC 7	(open)	INC 7	(open)	(open)					
Dec. 9		(open)	(open)	(open)	(open)	(open)					

Take note of the green (open) dates. These are dates in which no classes are scheduled but our newsroom is open – and thus we need volunteer Web producers. If the calendar limits your section to just six INC sessions, you get first chance (by Sept. 11), to sign up for shifts during those open dates. Starting Sept. 12, anyone can sign up for one of those shifts for extra credit until all the slots are filled. (Hint: The early bird gets the worm.)

Grading

Web producer performance 40%
 Story creator performance 40%
 Numeracy exam 20%

Grading Scale

	Percent		Percent		Percent
		B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%
A	100-93%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%
A-	92-90%	B-	82-80%		

The minimum score to pass this course is a C, or 72.5. Scores are rounded to the nearest whole point: 89.4 rounds down to 89 (B+) while 89.5 rounds up to 90 (A-). More details on the university’s grading policy can be found in the undergraduate catalog [online](#).

Academic Integrity

University of Florida students live by an [honor code](#) that prohibits academic dishonesty such as cheating. Students have an affirmative obligation to know what those policies prohibit. If you are unsure, ask the instructor in advance. When cheating is discovered, the policy is to fail all students involved for the course and refer the details to the Dean of Students Office.

For journalists, plagiarism and fabrication are unforgivable. Any plagiarism or fabrication, regardless of claimed intent, will result in automatic failure for the course and referral to the Dean of Students Office. To avoid plagiarism, attribute all sources of information; paraphrasing does not negate an obligation to attribute. To avoid fabrication, telling the truth.

Students with Disabilities

If you would benefit from disability-related accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) as early in the semester as possible. The center will provide documentation so appropriate accommodations can be made. The center is in Reid Hall, 392-8565.

Help With Coping

The UF [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) is a terrific, free resource for any student who could use help managing stress or coping with life. The center, at 3190 Radio Road on campus, is open for appointments and emergency walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To make an appointment or receive after-hours assistance, call 352-392-1575.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted [online](#). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary [results](#) of these assessments are available to all students and to the public.