

## **SYLLABUS**

JOU1001: Intro to Journalism

Spring 2014

Mondays, 4:05-4:55 p.m.

Gannett Auditorium, Weimer Hall

**Instructor:** Steve Orlando, [sfo@ufl.edu](mailto:sfo@ufl.edu), 352-392-0186

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 2-3 p.m. 101 Tigert Hall

**Objective:** Intro to Journalism is fairly self-explanatory. The idea is to give you a look at what journalism is all about and to help you decide if a career in the business is right for you. A series of guest speakers from various walks of journalistic life will share their wisdom and professional experience to help light the way.

**Required reading:** "Somebody Told Me," by Rick Bragg; The New York Times; other readings as assigned.

**Tests:** You will have two tests, both multiple choice, one in the middle of the semester, the other near the end. Both will be during regular class time in our usual classroom, Gannett Auditorium. Show up for class, listen and take notes, read and you should have no problems. It's that simple. Really. (A note about taking notes: I encourage you to take notes the way a journalist would, which means listen for what sounds important, such as names, facts, numbers and anything preceded by the words, "This is important so write it down.")

Finally, a note about your final grade for the class. I use the university's alternate grading scale, which is extremely generous and forgiving (see below). When the end of the semester comes, please don't send me emails saying things like, "But Professor Orlando, I'm only one point away from an A. Can't you just give me one point??" Receiving one of these emails will tempt me to be a jerk to you. I hate jerks. Please don't make me hate myself.

## **SCHEDULE**

(Subject to change. Depending on speakers' schedules. Or what I had for lunch.)  
"READING" refers to the chapter in "Somebody Told Me" that you should read that week.

Jan. 6 – Introductions and basics, getting your NY Times subscription started  
READING: Survivors

Jan. 13 – Guest speaker: Mike Foley, master lecturer, department of journalism, Hugh Cunningham Professor in Journalism Excellence. Topic: Covering the big story, being an editor. READING: Four Walls to Hold Me

Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NO CLASS) READING: Hurtful Things.

Jan. 27 – Guest speaker: Kristin Harmel – Novelist, writer for People magazine. Topic: The art of the interview. READING: Secrets

Feb. 3 – Journalism vocabulary READING: Silver Hair, Golden Years

Feb. 10 – Covering controversial issues READING: Icons

Feb. 17 – TEST No. 1 (In Gannett Auditorium during regular class time)

Feb. 24 – Guest speaker: Ben Montgomery, enterprise writer, Tampa Bay Times. Topic: Long-form journalism. READING: George Corley Wallace.

March 3 – Spring Break (NO CLASS) READING: Monuments.

March 10 – Guest speaker: John Zarella, former Miami bureau chief for CNN. Topic: Lessons from 30+ years in TV news. READING: Bourbon and Bayous.

March 17 – Journalism ethics READING: Colors

March 24 – Guest speaker: Peter King, Kennedy Space Center correspondent, CBS News Radio. Topic: Telling stories via sound. READING: Bombs

March 31 – Who owns the media? READING: Susan

April 7 – Steve Johnson, multimedia specialist. Topic: Backpack journalism. READING: Schoolyards

April 14 – Making it in Journalism. READING: Living and Dying

April 21 -- TEST No. 2 (In Gannett Auditorium during regular class time)

### **Grading scale**

A = 90 or above	C = 70 - 73
A- = 87 - 89	C- = 67 - 69
B+ = 84 - 86	D+ = 64 - 66
B = 80 - 83	D = 60 - 63
B- = 77 - 79	D- = 57 - 59
C+ = 74 - 76	E = 56 or below

### **Class attendance, make-up exams, etc.**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Your feedback**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. 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 students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>