

RADIO NEWS II COURSE SYLLABUS RTV 3304-- Fall 2012

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Text/Readings: REQUIRED: Subscription to the Gainesville Sun newspaper or on-line version
Sound Reporting: The NPR Radio Guide to Radio Journalism & Production, by Jonathan Kern

Materials: Memory stick, recordable CDs,

Grading:	Newsroom participation	40%
	Quizzes	15%
	Exercises (3 in-class)	15%
	Projects (three 4 - 6 min)	30%

COURSE OUTLINE, RULES AND INFORMATION

RTV 3304 is an advanced radio reporting class. As such, you will be expected to do more reporting on your own in addition to the required six hour weekly newsroom shift. Your produced pieces will be utilized on the one-hour news program "Front Page Edition of All Things Considered" which airs each weekday from 4 to 5 p.m. and likely repeated on "Morning Edition" between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. on WUFT-FM. You will also be responsible for making your feature web-friendly by converting your features to mp3 and saving it to a web folder along with a plain text intro and story and headline.

This class will expand on the basics learned in Radio 1 to include more intense reporting in the field and in the studio for longer, in-depth reports and features. You will learn more about the "art" of production through use of digital editing and mixing on Adobe Audition and the KLZ system. There will be a stronger emphasis on capturing more "natural sound" into stories. Radio 2 will also provide opportunities to incorporate more multimedia through the use of Flip cams (and other web friendly cameras) and Soundslides and Windows Movie Maker or Final Cut Pro.

Expect weekly quizzes. They will be taken from the Gainesville Sun--local and regional stories, from both the front page and the regional section from the week before all the way up through class time. In addition, there may be questions from class lectures, handouts and AP wire service. You will be allowed to drop one quiz grade. A quiz can be made up under the following conditions: **sickness** (with a doctor's note) or a **family emergency** (with a parent/guardian's note). Remember, this is 15 % of your grade. Don't take it too lightly-- it can make the difference on the final grade between one level and the next.

Quizzes will start promptly at the beginning of class at 6:15. Consider this incentive to get to class on time.

The college does not like food or drink in the classrooms. Accordingly, you will **not** be allowed to bring food, sodas, etc., into the classroom. Finish your dinner before you come.

Turn off all cell phones before class and do not access email, Facebook or Twitter etc., during class time.

Equipment checked out for projects must be returned in a timely fashion and in the same condition as it was checked out. All UF students checking out gear from either the WUFT-FM newsroom or from the G020 Equipment Room must follow all established student/course access policies. Failure to do so will result in automatic suspension of WUFT-FM and G020 checkout privileges. Students who check out gear are also required to pay for any damage to equipment beyond normal professional wear and tear, and to pay for replacement of any items lost or destroyed.

Academic and professional honesty: according to the Florida Honor Code, the members of the University of Florida community pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Translation: If you cheat, you will receive a flunking grade. This includes, but is not limited to: peeking at another student's quiz, faking nat sound, using "canned" sound, faking a sound bite by having a friend voice it, plagiarism (cribbing a story from somewhere else and passing it off as your own), and so on. These things violate both academic and professional standards. **You cannot turn in the same project for Radio II and another Telecommunication course. This can result in a zero for the project.**

NEWSROOM SHIFTS

You are required to work at least six hours per week in the newsroom for this class. **In lieu of a final exam you will be required to work finals week.**

We say at least because in the news business there are times when you work longer than the minimum. Nobody likes it, but that's the nature of the business. So don't be shocked if you have to stay a little beyond quitting time to finish up a re-write or do an interview. (Note: If you require accommodations due to a disability, please make an appt. to discuss your needs.)

The goal is to come in with ideas (current and evergreen) that you can be working on OR assigned from a particular beat. After the first week or so you should be coming in with that sound so you always have a story you are working on with the goal of being a week ahead. Obviously from time to time there will be breaking stories you may be assigned to...that's the nature of the news business.

The only acceptable excuse for missing a shift in the newsroom is illness or an immediate family emergency--backed up by a doctor or parent's note. If in doubt about what is acceptable, CALL me in advance. (Note: studying for classes or a test, job conflicts that you knew about beforehand are generally not approved excuses.) You are permitted to switch shifts with my approval, and are required to make up any missed shifts. **An unexcused absence on a news shift is penalized by a one-half grade deduction. The same applies to deadlines for audio projects which are due at the start of class-- late projects are docked one-half grade per day.**

News Project

During the semester you will be responsible for **3 projects**: 2 produced radio features that run 4 to 6 minutes and 1 multimedia project. These will be features you do entirely on your own, outside of your regular newsroom shift. They are intended to demonstrate your grasp of writing and production skills. The requirements are as follows:

--the stories must be original, undated work and **may not** be sound taken from your newsroom shift (however you should be able to obtain some good story ideas while doing your newsroom shift).

--the stories should include at least **four** soundbites from at least **two** different sources and **3 to 5 pieces** of natural sound. (As a guide, assume one piece of nat snd for each minute of the report)

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The reports should be handed in on a CD or on a memory stick with **two** copies of the script (**including intro and tease headline**).

Each report will be graded for:

Audio quality	30%
Writing/organization	25%
Newsworthiness	25%
Production	20% (use of nat snd, levels, fades, mixing)

The audio portion of the grade will include delivery (i.e. your voice) and the quality of the actuality and nat sound. There should be **NO phone sound of anyone who works or lives in Alachua County, or within an hour's drive.** Exceptions must be approved by instructor before the project is handed in.

Natural sound cannot be taken from sound effect records and must be work gathered from the field. it must not be "created" for the projects. This is deceptive, inaccurate reporting. The sound must come from actual events/sounds occurring as you are recording. Any violation of this policy results in an automatic "F" on the project. No exceptions.

CLASS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

22 Aug	Class introduction (Ref. Ch 1, 2, 3, <u>Sound Reporting</u>)
29 Aug	Reporting & Field Producing (Interviewing Techniques) Reference: Ch 4 & 5 <u>Sound Reporting</u>
5 Sept	Production/Editing Exercise Pt 1 (in room 2058 Weimer Hall)
12 Sept	Production/Editing Exercise Pt 2 (in room 2058 Weimer Hall) <u>Project 1 ideas due</u>
19 Sept	Writing Techniques/Storytelling (Ch 3, 4, 6 & handouts) (writing exercise handed out)
26 Sept	<u>Writing Exercise due</u>
3 Oct	Storytelling Techniques (Ch 7, 8 & 10)
10 Oct	<u>Project 1 Due</u>
17 Oct	Delivery & Interviewing Techniques (Ch. 7, 8 & 10)
24 Oct	Beyond Radio/Multimedia/Web Guest Speaker Matt Sheehan, <u>Project 2 Ideas due</u>
31 Oct	Quiz over Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,12)
7 Nov	Listening Exercise in Class (<u>Project 2 due by Mon. Nov. 12 at 4 p.m.</u>)
14 Nov	Guest Speaker, Vic Micolucci from WJXT-TV
21 Nov	TBA
28 Nov	Ethics in Reporting (ch 13)/ Guest speaker- Mike Foley
5 Dec	<u>Multimedia Project Due</u>
12 Dec	Specialized Reporting/Marketing stories