

RTV3234 – Performance in Telecommunication

Fall 2012

Mondays: Periods 4-5 (10:40am – 12:35pm), Weimer 2050
Wednesdays: Period 4 (10:40am – 11:30am), Weimer G030

Instructor: Erica Kight

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Office: Weimer 2039A

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays after class; or by appointment

Course Blog: <http://ufperformance.blogspot.com>

Course Objective: Students will work on their on-air performance skills for broadcast news – including voice work, standups, interviews and TV live shots. The goal of this course is to prepare you for your first on-air news reporting job. This course will challenge students to think about telling stories through vocal interpretation, body language and visual aids.

Required Materials: There is no textbook assigned to this course. The best way to polish your on-air performance is not from a textbook. However, you can learn much more from your instructor, guest speakers and your peers.

Please come to class prepared by taking the following steps: For recorded performance exercises, students must come to class in business/business casual attire. You are expected to act the part of a professional. Remember: Your “look” is part of your performance and your on-air persona, your “brand.” Always bring a reporter notebook or legal pad and a pen with you to class.

Equipment and Editing: You will be shooting projects outside of class on camera equipment available downstairs. Steve Kippert is the contact person for equipment checkout. Equipment checkout will become available once the UF policy forms have been distributed in class and appropriate paperwork signed. Please do not attempt to checkout gear before then.

Any equipment checkout violations will result in 10 points off the student’s project grade per violation.

Blank SD cards (one per student) are available for pick up in the Telecommunication office on the second floor of Weimer Hall. Editing will be done in the Weimer 3200 lab. Use your Gatorlink information to log in to the computers and use Final Cut Pro for editing.

***Please be advised that the equipment is the property of the University of Florida. The equipment must only be used for this course, and all content that is

produced (ex: pkg, b-roll, sot, etc.) may not be sold or given to any outside broadcast or media outlets without permission.***

Course Blog: I have started a blog for this course (ufperformance.blogspot.com). It is a working document. You will post your assignments on the blog as the course progresses. Video projects will likely need to be hosted on YouTube in order to be posted on the blog. Please make sure you set up your own YouTube account.

Attendance: In the news business, it is extremely important to be on time and to complete all work by deadline. The same goes for this class. You are allowed TWO “freebee” absences and TWO late arrivals. That’s it. I will not accept doctor’s notes, unless in cases of extreme illness. Save your freebee absences for emergencies.

If you are absent or late on a day in which an assignment is due, you **MUST** turn in the assignment **BEFORE** class or give it to a classmate to turn in for you. In a newsroom, missing slot is enough to get you fired.

All late work (excused or unexcused) will result in 10 points off the assignment grade per day that it is late (including weekends). “On time” means no later than the time class starts the day the assignment is due.

Each unexcused absence will cost you 10 points off your Participation grade. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you walk in after roll has been called, you will lose 5 points on Participation for unexcused tardiness. You are also expected to stay in class until the end. I will mark you absent if you leave early.

Technical difficulties or equipment failure are **NOT** excuses. In other words, guard your work with your life. Back everything up! I will not grant extensions for carelessness.

Participation: In this class, it is extremely important that you actively participate in in-class exercises. I pay close attention to students’ participation and enthusiasm during in-class activities.

Please be advised that your participation grade may be negatively affected by the following: cell phone use, any unrelated laptop or tablet use, disruptive behavior, lack of engagement in class, unexcused absence or tardiness, etc.

Also, you may be assigned a partner for some assignments, and partners will be asked to evaluate each other’s participation at the end of the semester.

Course Grades: The following is a breakdown of graded assignments and other parts of your overall course grade.

15% Voice Work & Self-Critique
15% Career Interview Project

15% Standups & Self-Critique
15% One-Take 'How To' & Self-Critique
15% In-Class Assignments and Mock Live Shots
25% Participation

Course Grading Scale:

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 74-76
C- 70-73
D+ 67-69
D 64-66
D- 60-63
F Below 60

All final course grades will be rounded *up* to the *next* nearest whole number. For example, even a 92.1 would round up to a 93.

Plagiarism: Don't do it. Always cite. You may not "recycle" any work from another class or internship in this class. In other words, all work must be fresh and produced specifically for this class.

Students with physical or learning disabilities should register with the Dean of Students Office. I will be happy to accommodate any special needs.

Tentative Course Schedule:
(subject to change)

Wednesday, Aug. 22 – Introduction to the course

Monday, Aug. 27 – Introduction of Classmates
Discussion: Why Work on Performance Skills?
Resume Tape Examples

Wednesday, Aug. 29 – Discussion: 'Write It Like You'd Say It'
Exercise: Press Conference

Monday, Sept. 3 –	No Class Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 5 –	Script Due in Class Peer Script Revision Workshop Explanation of Voice Work & Self-Critique Assignment
Monday, Sept. 10 –	Finalizing Script Revisions Discussion: ‘Say It Like You Mean It’ Activity: Script Read Exercise and Peer Critique Headshots for Course Blog
Wednesday, Sept. 12 –	Watching for Reporting Styles (Student, Local and National Examples)
Monday, Sept. 17 –	Voice Work & Self-Critique Assignment Due Listen to Audio and Peer Critique
Wednesday, Sept. 19 –	Explanation of Career Interview Project Discussion: Interviewing Skills
Monday, Sept. 24 –	Activity: Paying Attention to Detail (Interviewing and Notes Exercise)
Wednesday, Sept. 26 –	Career Interview Guide Due in Class Peer Review of Career Interview Guide
Monday, Oct. 1 –	Watching for Interview Styles (Examples in Class)
Wednesday, Oct. 3 –	Career Interview Project Due Listen to Interviews and Peer Critique
Monday, Oct. 8 –	Discussion: The Basics of Standups Watching for Standup Ideas (Student, Local and National Examples)
Wednesday, Oct. 10 –	Explanation of Standup & Self-Critique Assignment
Monday, Oct. 15 –	Discussion: Demonstrate, Explain or Both?

	Activity: Standup Scenarios Workshop
Wednesday, Oct. 17 –	Discussion: Standups that Fit Your Story (Yes, we will exhaust the topic of standups)
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Monday, Oct. 22 –	Activity: Race Against the Clock (Shoot Standups During Class Time)
Wednesday, Oct. 24 –	Edited Standups from Race Due in Class Watch Standups in Class
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Monday, Oct. 29 –	Resume Tapes: The Good, The Bad & ... In-Class Discussion
Wednesday, Oct. 31 –	Standup & Self-Critique Assignment Due Watch Video in Class and Peer Critique
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Monday, Nov. 5 –	Discussion: Live Shots Explanation of One-Take ‘How To’ & Self-Critique Assignment Class Time to Brainstorm Topics for Assignment
Wednesday, Nov. 7 –	Watching for Live Shot Style / Skills (Local and National Examples)
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Monday, Nov. 12 –	No Class Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 14 –	Discussion: Erica’s Live Shot Tips
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Monday, Nov. 19 –	Activity: Mock Live Shots in Classroom
Wednesday, Nov. 21 –	No Class Meeting
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Monday, Nov. 26 –	No Class Meeting (Work Day for ‘How To’ Assignment)
Wednesday, Nov. 28 –	Activity: Mock Live Shots on Campus
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Monday, Dec. 3 –	Discussion: Anchoring Activity: Anchor Practice (if possible)

Wednesday, Dec. 5 –

Last Class Meeting

One-Take 'How To' & Self-Critique Assignment Due

Watch Assignment in Class
