

## RTV3234 – Performance in Telecommunication

Fall 2013

Tuesdays: Periods 6-8 (12:50-3:50pm) Weimer 1078

Instructor: Erica Kight

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Office: Weimer 2034; (352) 846-0991

Office Hours: Tuesdays 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, anchoring 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, news professionals 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:** You will be shooting projects for 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.

\*\*\*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. Since we only meet once per week, you are allowed ONE “freebee” absence and ONE late arrival without penalty.

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 unexcused late work 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.

If you miss class because of a real illness, please provide a valid doctor’s note for the absence. Otherwise, plan to use your freebee absence. If you miss class because of a religious observance, please let me know ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

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.

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>

Technical difficulties or equipment failure are **NOT** excuses. In other words, guard your work. 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.

You are also expected to participate in discussions on the course blog when assigned throughout the semester.

Also, you may be assigned a partner for some assignments, and partners may 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  
10% MOS Interviews Assignment  
10% Race Against The Clock Standups  
15% Standups & Self-Critique  
15% One-Take 'How To' & Self-Critique  
20% Participation & Blog Posts

**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.

For information on the university's grad policies, visit <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**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.

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 obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in 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.**

**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 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>.

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**Tentative Course Schedule:**

*(subject to change)*

Tuesday, Aug. 27 – Introduction to the course  
Introduction of classmates  
Discussion: Why work on performance skills?  
Resume tape examples

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Tuesday, Sept. 3 – Discussion: ‘Write It Like You’d Say It’  
Exercise: Press conference  
Write scripts in class (lab)  
Peer critique

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Tuesday, Sept. 10 – Explanation of Voice Work & Self-Critique Assignment  
Discussion: ‘Say It Like You Mean It’  
Listen to examples in class  
Practice and peer critique  
Headshots for course blog

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Tuesday, Sept. 17 – **Voice Work & Self-Critique Assignment Due**  
Listen to audio and peer critique  
Watching for reporting styles  
(Student, Local and National Examples)

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Tuesday, Sept. 24 – Explanation of Career Interview Project  
Discussion: Interviewing skills  
Watch Q&A examples  
Work on interview guides and peer critique

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Tuesday, Oct. 1 – Guest speaker

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Tuesday, Oct. 8 – **Career Interview Project Due**  
Listen to interviews and peer critique  
Discussion: Interviewing the man on the street  
(Shoot MOS interviews during class time)

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Tuesday, Oct. 15 – **MOS Interviews Due**  
Discussion: The basics of standups  
Watching for standup ideas  
(Student, Local and National Examples)  
Explanation of Standup & Self-Critique Assignment

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Tuesday, Oct. 22 – Discussion: Demonstrate, explain or both?  
Activity: Standup scenarios workshop  
Activity: Race against the clock  
(Shoot standups during class time)

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Tuesday, Oct. 29 – **Edited Standups from Race Due**  
Watch standups in class  
Resume Tapes: The Good, The Bad & ...

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Tuesday, Nov. 5 – **Standup & Self-Critique Assignment Due**  
Watch video in class and peer critique  
Discussion: Live shots & Erica's live shot tips  
Explanation of One-Take 'How To' & Self-Critique  
Class time to brainstorm topics for assignment

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Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Watching for live shot style / skills  
(Local and national examples)

Activity: Mock live shots in classroom

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Tuesday, Nov. 19 –

Activity: Mock Live Shots on campus with distractions  
Discussion: Anchoring  
Activity: Individual anchor practice (lab)

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Tuesday, Nov. 26 –

Activity: In-class anchor practice with distractions (lab)

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Tuesday, Dec. 3 –

**Last Class Meeting**  
**One-Take 'How To' & Self-Critique Assignment Due**  
Watch Assignment in Class & peer critique  
Activity: Mock newscast

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