

RTV 3303 Electronic News Media One Summer 2014

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RTV 3303 is designed to offer instruction and training in news gathering, writing, interviewing and reporting. Special emphasis is placed on improving writing skills, basic news production, and actual radio reporting assignments. Students receive practical experience in the WUFT newsrooms.

Objectives and goals of the course include:

- (1) writing news stories acceptable for on-air use under deadline pressure
- (2) ability to record audio via phone or in-person, and edit audio
- (3) ability to write "sound stories"
- (4) ability to produce scripts, photos and audio for web sites
- (5) an understanding of the variety of sources used at the stations
- (6) an opportunity, and an expectation that work produced in the class and in the newsroom can/will be used on air
- (7) opportunity to voice your work, live or recorded, on the air
- (8) a better understanding of news and current events
- (9) an understanding of web sites for research, as well as to produce content for radio station websites
- (10)and finally, "develop a nose for news"

Course Eligibility: You must be in the College of Journalism and Communication----you must have had a "C" grade in RTV 2100 and RTV 3007, and passed a typing/writing test. If you haven't met this requirement, please come forward ASAP.

Required Equipment: digital recorder----these will be provided for you. You should have at least 4-6 double- A batteries. You will be issued an "SD" card for recording. It will be used for newsroom shifts and your projects.

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation."

Class demeanor expected: students will be expected to participate in class discussions, turn off all cell phones BEFORE class starts or be prepared to surrender cell phone to instructor if it goes off in class, and treat your instructor and classmates with respect. This includes comments on social media. Improper comments that violate the university code of conduct will be referred to the dean of student services. Be on time for class----quizzes are given at

start of class and are allotted a certain amount of time. If you miss them, or are late, you will be penalized.

The University of Florida Dean of Students Office has a detailed discussion about academic honesty and the University of Florida Honor Code, which was voted on and passed by the Student Body. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. 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."

In doing work for this class, there are times when you will discuss issues and problems with your peers. But, here are some things to avoid, or face severe penalties:

- (a) Your work is your own. It is not something that is copy and pasted from a web site. Attribution is important---where did this information come from?
- (b) You don't share audio files with your classmates on projects. The audio is ONLY for your project.
- (c) Showing someone how to do something, like editing some audio, is allowed. But you must be the one who has edited the project or work. The only exception is with express permission of the instructor.

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

Required textbook: WUFT Guidelines Course Packet. Purchase at Target Copy, either the University Avenue or Archer Road location.

Grading Components

Quizzes	10%
Classroom exercises	10%
Project One	10%
Project Two	15%
Project Three	20%
Newsroom	25%
Test	10%

Grading Scale:	A	(93-100)	
	A-	(91-92)	
	B+	(88-90)	
	B	(83-87)	
	B-	(81-82)	
	C+	(78-79)	
	C	(73-77)	
	C-	(71-72)	
	D+	(68-70)	
	D	(63-67)	
	D-	(61-62)	
	E	(below 61)	

Newsroom Work: Training sessions will be held the week of May 19th, as part of your class. If other training is needed, it will be announced after the Monday night training. Attendance is mandatory! You are required to work six hours per week during the semester, which is where your newsroom grade is derived. In **lieu** of a final exam, lab shifts extend through the end of finals week. **Mark this down!** This should not be a surprise at the end of the semester. **Newsroom shifts must be covered----check with news manager Forrest Smith with questions---- basically, if you can't work, you will need to get someone to work for you. You need an excused absence from a doctor , counselor, clergy or appropriate person---and it should be requested to BEFORE the absence. Same policy with class.**

Quizzes: are given at the start of each class. The quiz will come from the WUFT.org web site Sunday night by 10pm, the local and national/world sections, and from the readings in the WUFT guidebook for that week(before your class meeting).gional and state stories.

Class Projects: There are three class projects that are done OUTSIDE of your newsroom lab shifts. More details on requirements will be forthcoming.

COURSE SCHEDULE(there may be some changes based on availability of guests, etc.)

Week #1(5-12)	Intro to class, basic info/Writing refresher/leads What is news? Ethics of news. Covering the “territory”
Week #2(5-19)	Training. News shifts to be announced. Read: WUFT guide. 1.1 through 1.10, 1.14
Memorial day(5-26)	No class
Week #3(6-2)	Story Flow, Building on the Lead for broadcast and Internet Interviewing techniques/audio sources. Writing sound stories. Read: CP 1.11 through 2.6; 2.8
Week #4(6-9)	Project #1 Due. Project #2 assigned.
Week #5(6-16)	Research methods: academic vs. news Finding human elements
Summer A ends. No class 6-23	
Week #6(6-29)	Public affairs reporting. Newsmakers. Personalizing issues. Writing longer. Using web for research.
Week #7(7-7)	Project #2 due
Week #8(7-14)	Cops and Courts. Criminal justice system news. Libel Project #3 assigned.
Week #9(7-21)	Test
Week #10(7-28)	Work on project #3 independently
Week #11 (8-4)	Project three due.

*****NOTE: schedule subject to changed based on guest availabilities and other factors.**

Tom's tips for survival!!!!

- (1) Do more**
- (2) Assume it counts**
- (3) Pay attention to current events**
- (4) You don't need to know everything, you just need to find out somehow.**
- (5) Can't is not in my vocabulary!**