

# RTV 3303 Electronic News Media 1

## Fall 2013

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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 gain practical experience in the Innovation News Center.**

### **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 write stories for both broadcast and website
- (5) Ability to take pictures in the field for website
- (6) An understanding of the variety of sources used at the stations
- (7) An opportunity, and an expectation that work produced in the class and in the newsroom can/will be used on air
- (8) Opportunity to voice your work, live or recorded, on the air
- (9) A better understanding of news and current events
- (10) An understanding of web sites for research, as well as to produce content for website (written and pictures)
- (11) 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 the news placement test. If you haven’t met this requirement, please come forward ASAP.**

### **Required Equipment:**

- digital recorder (will be provided)
- SD card (will be provided)
- 4-6 AA batteries

**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 Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. 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."

For more information about academic honesty, contact, Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

### Required materials:

- WUFT News Handbook (Available at Target Copy on University Avenue)
- Digital-only subscription to Gainesville Sun (\$10)

### Grading Components

Quizzes	15%
Project One	10%
Project Two	15%
Project Three	20%
Newsroom	30%
Test	10%

### Grading Scale:

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

**Newsroom Work:** Training sessions will be held on September 3, 4, and 5, starting at 6:00 pm and run between 90 minutes to 2 hours. You will be required to attend one of those sessions. Attendance is mandatory! You'll sign up for one of the sessions in class.

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 director 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 me BEFORE the absence. Same policy with class.**

**Quizzes:** are given at the start of each class. The quiz will come from:

- the Monday CNN web site's "World and U.S" sections

- the Gainesville Sun web site of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, from the local and regional stories
- assigned reading from the WUFT News Handbook

### **Class Projects:**

#### **Project One:**

Wrap with two sound bites/70 seconds long  
(more explanation in class)

#### **Project Two:**

Wrap with 3 sound bites/1:30 in length  
Written version for web  
Personalization of issue (more explanation in class)

#### **Project Three:**

Wrap with 4 sound bites/two pieces nat sound  
Written version for web  
2:00-3:00 in length

### **Course Schedule (subject to change based on availability of guests, etc.)**

Week #1 (8-27)	Intro to class, basic info/writing refresher <i>For next week: Handbook 1.9, 1.10, 1.11</i>
Week #2 (9-3)	What is news? Writing leads and stories for broadcast and web <b>Training sessions this week, news shifts announced</b> <i>For next week: Handbook 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (Read after training session)</i>
Week #3 (9-10)	Story flow, building on the lead for broadcast and web, and other writing techniques <b>News shifts begin</b> <b>Project 1 assigned</b> <i>For next week: Handbook 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 2.1-2.6</i>
Week #4 (9-17)	Interview techniques Working with audio
Week #5 (9-24)	Localization of news, finding and pitching stories
Week #6 (10-1)	Listen to projects <b>Project 1 due</b>
Week #7 (10-8)	Research methods: academic vs. news Finding human elements <b>Project 2 assigned</b>
Week #8 (10-15)	Public affairs reporting 1
Week #9 (10-22)	Public affairs reporting 2
Week #10 (10-29)	<b>Midterm</b>

Week #11 (11-5)	Listen to projects <b>Project 2 due</b> <b>Project 3 assigned</b>
Week #12 (11-12)	Finding and using public documents
Week#13 (11-19)	Libel/ethics
Week #14 (11-26)	News producing
Week#15 (12-3)	Class wrap <b>Project 3 due</b>

**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!**