

RADIO NEWS II COURSE SYLLABUS RTV 3304-- Fall 2013

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Text/Readings: REQUIRED: Subscription to the Gainesville Sun newspaper or on-line version
(RECOMMENDED) 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 half-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 along with pictures or video.

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 video cameras, Adobe Premier 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 an original 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.

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.

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 an original 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.**

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>."

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

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>.

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)

--. **You cannot turn in the same projects for Radio II and another Telecommunication course. This can result in a zero for the project.**

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.

Phone numbers and contact sites for university counseling services and mental health services:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> 392-1575, University Police Department 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

CLASS SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

21 Aug	Class introduction (Ref. Ch 1, 2, 3, <u>Sound Reporting</u>)
28 Aug	Reporting & Field Producing (Interviewing Techniques) Reference: Ch 4 & 5 <u>Sound Reporting</u>
4 Sept	Production/Editing Exercise Pt 1 (in room 2058 Weimer Hall)
11 Sept	Production/Editing Exercise Pt 2 (in room 2058 Weimer Hall) <u>Project 1 ideas due</u>
18 Sept	Writing Techniques/Storytelling (Ch 3, 4, 6 & handouts) (writing exercise handed out)
25 Sept	<u>Writing Exercise due</u>
2 Oct	Storytelling Techniques (Ch 7, 8 & 10)
9 Oct	<u>Project 1 Due</u> Delivery and Interviewing Techniques 1 (Ch. 7, 8 & 10)

16 Oct Delivery & Interviewing Techniques 2 (Ch. 7, 8 & 10)

23 Oct Beyond Radio/Multimedia/Web (Ch. 18) ***Project 2 Ideas due***

30 Oct **Quiz over Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,12, 18)**

6 Nov **Listening Exercise in Class**

13 Nov Guest Speaker **(Project 2 Due)**

20 Nov Ethics in Reporting (Ch 13) Guest Speaker

27 Nov Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)

4 Dec **Multimedia Project Due**