

JOMC 421
Electronic Journalism
Spring, 2008

Tuesday, Thursday 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
CA 132
Office hours: M. – Th. 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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PREREQUISITES: JOMC 121 and 120. If you have not completed the prerequisites you will be dropped from this course. Permission of instructor is required; you must meet with Dr. Tuggle to pre-register for the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

SCOPE:

The course is designed to teach those interested in pursuing careers in broadcast/electronic journalism the writing, reporting, packaging, and producing skills required for television news. Also, it will reinforce the foundation of solid writing and field production from earlier classes and will move you toward one of a number of newsroom jobs.

DESCRIPTION:

This course will be split more or less evenly between the theoretical and practical aspects of electronic newsgathering. We will review area newscasts to stimulate discussion about the hows and whys of deciding on, gathering, and presenting news stories in broadcast form. There is a lot of emphasis on both the content and the production of your stories.

OBJECTIVES:

Student ability (1) to plan and execute video productions from concept to finished product; (2) to improve videography with emphasis on composition, lighting, and technique; (3) to understand the principles and practice of editing and other post-production problems; (4) to understand elements of producing for both studio and remote field production; (5) to improve those basic production skills necessary to achieve the above goals; (6) to practice good grammar and solid writing skills with strict attention to accuracy, detail, and industry standard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Classroom experiences are a vital part of the educational process. Therefore, regular class attendance is essential. The following policy governs absences and their effect upon your grade: One (1) absence - no penalty. Each absence in excess of one (1) will result in the deduction of two (2) points from your final grade. Medical absences are NOT considered separately. In other words, if you have to go to the clinic and it is simply impossible to schedule an appointment for any time other than class time, that will be your single “free pass.” Hardship medical cases will be considered

WHEN THE SITUATION ARISES. If you wait until the end of the term to come to me to plead your case, too bad, so sad. Additionally, showing up late for class will impact your grade. One minute is a long time in television news.

LATE WORK:

Regular projects will be accepted after their due dates, but will be assessed 10 late points for the first day, and two points per day after that. You are responsible for turning in all projects on the dates they're due, although you are allowed one absence.

DETERMINATION OF GRADE:

Classroom discussion is important and will count toward your grade for the course. Class time is not the time to schedule shooting or editing sessions. During the term, there will be weekly quizzes, one writing test, two (2) exams and six (6) projects. The first two projects will each be worth 5% of your grade; projects three and four will each be worth 7.5 %. Project five will be worth 10%, and project six will be worth 15%. The midterm exam will count 10%, as will the final. The quiz grades will be worth 25%. The writing test is worth 5%. You will be allowed to work on the projects in two-person teams, but you will receive a grade individually. The make-up of the teams could change as we move through the course. The first two projects will be voice-overs (VOs), projects three and four will be voice over to sound on tape (VO/SOTs), & the final two projects will be full reporter packages (PKGS). Each package must include at least two (2) sources and a standup. Additionally, each project will be judged on the following criteria:

- a. Reporting enterprise and depth (news value)
- b. Diction, enunciation and other elements of delivery (pkgs. only)
- c. Steadiness, composition, and aesthetic quality of video
- d. Editing proficiency
- e. Quality of writing and how well video matches audio (SWAP)

Projects one and two will be :30 pieces, three and four should be :45 to :50 in length, and projects five and six should run between 1:30 and 2:00 in length (tape time). Either 3 or 4 must be a VO/SOT/VO.

Required text:

Broadcast News Handbook: Writing, Reporting, and Producing in a Converging Media World, 3rd Edition, published by McGraw-Hill. You are also encouraged to have a dictionary and *AP Style Book* on hand for each class meeting. Supplemental readings will be assigned at various times as well.

Required Material:

Two (2) Sony mini-DV tapes per person for field recording and editing.

Final grades will be assigned according to the scale below.

A	93 or higher	C	73-76.9
A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
C+	77-79.9	F	Below 60

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE:

- January 10 Review syllabus. Discuss course objectives. Discuss broadcast story forms. Show examples on tape. For next meeting, read Chapter 1 and Appendix B in the text, read Koppel article, write one-page essay, write personal profile.
- January 15 Field equipment overview. Review assigned readings. View local newscast. For next meeting, read Chapters 2-4 in text.
- January 17 Assign teams and field equipment. Review assigned readings. Discuss production aspects of TV news. Show field shooting tape. Editing overview.
- January 22 Grammar quiz 1. Word precision quiz 1. News quiz 1. Write a VO. For next meeting, read Chapters 5-7 in text.
- January 24 Review quizzes. Review assigned readings. Review VOs. Write a VO/SOT. For next meeting, read Chapters 8 & 9 in the text.
- January 29 Grammar quiz 2. Word precision quiz 2. News quiz 2. Review assigned readings. Review VO/SOTs. Write a package.
- January 31 Review quizzes. Blue VO 1 due. View local newscast. Review packages. Catch up on review of reading assignments.
- February 5 White VO 1 due. Grammar quiz 3. Word precision quiz 3. News quiz 3. Review blue VOs.
- February 7 Review quizzes. Review white VOs. Lighting demos. Blue VO 2 due.
- February 12 Grammar quiz 4. Word precision quiz 4. News quiz 4. White VO 2 due. Review Blue VO 2. Guest speaker TBA.
- February 14 Review quizzes. Blue VO/SOT 1 due. Reading to prompter. Review white VOs.
- February 19 White VO/SOT 1 due. Review blue VO/SOTs. Grammar quiz 5. Word precision quiz 5. News quiz 5. Show Hearst tape. Watch prompter tape.
- February 21 Review quizzes. Review white VO/SOTs.
- February 26 Grammar quiz 6. Word precision quiz 6. News quiz 6. Voice and diction exercises. Blue VO/SOT 2 due.
- February 28 Review quizzes. Review Blue VO/SOTs, White VO/SOT 2 due.
- March 4 Grammar quiz 7. Word precision quiz 7. News quiz 7. Review white VO/SOTs. Review for midterm.
- March 6 Review quizzes. Midterm exam. For next meeting, read first half of Chapter 10.
- March 11, 13 Spring break. NO CLASS.

March 18	Review assigned readings and midterm. For next meeting, read second half of Chapter 10.
March 20	Grammar quiz 8. Word precision quiz 8. News quiz 8. Review assigned readings. More about producing.
March 25	Review quizzes. Start working on affiliate writing test. For next meeting, read Chapter 12. Blue package 1 due. Live reporting exercise.
March 27	Grammar quiz 9. Word precision quiz 9. News quiz 9. Review assigned readings. Review blue packages and live reporting. Ethics exercises. White package 1 due.
April 1	Review quizzes. Affiliate writing test due. Review AWT. Review white packages.
April 3	Grammar quiz 10. Word precision quiz 10. News quiz 10. Reading to prompter.
April 8	Review quizzes. Review prompter tape. More about ethics. For next meeting, read Chapters 13 and 14 and Appendix A.
April 10	Grammar Quiz 11. Word precision quiz 11. News quiz 11. Review assigned readings. View Dotson tape. Blue package 2 due.
April 15	Review quizzes. Review blue packages. Live reporting part 2.
April 17	Grammar quiz 12. Word precision quiz 12. News quiz 12. For next meeting read satellites handout. Review live reporting, part 2. White package 2 due.
April 22	Review quizzes. Discuss satellites reading. Review white packages. Review for final, course evaluations.
April 24	TBA
May 6	Final exam, 9-11.

Note: This schedule is a guide, and is not etched in stone. It is subject to revision as we go along.

FINAL NOTE: Producing television news pieces can be quite rewarding as well as being a lot of work and requiring much attention to detail. As a producer/reporter/videographer/editor, you are exposed to a wide variety of people and subjects. You learn a little bit about a lot of things. This course will teach you how to structure video stories so as to effectively share that knowledge with the viewers.