

Introduction to Lantern TV

COMM 3189

Thursday 5:00-8:00pm

Journalism Building Room #281 (Media Integration Lab)

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Office Hours: Thursday, 4-5pm in 275 Journalism Building, or by appt.

PURPOSE OF COURSE:

To begin to prepare you to work in television news. During the course, you will learn how to write, shoot, edit, and report your stories on camera. You will also learn to produce news packages that can be aired on a newscast. You are expected to leave this course ready for internships at television stations or Internet news outlets.

You are expected to give equal attention to all phases of the news-gathering and news-delivering process. In other words, you should leave this course as skilled in editing as you are in working on camera. You will learn how to use the cameras and how to edit what you shoot. There will be two major projects due during the semester. These projects will weigh heavily in determining whether you pass the course or not.

COURSE GOALS:

The goal of this course is to build a skill set that will enable you to work for a broadcast news organization. This includes:

1. Synthesizing theory and putting into practice.
2. Demonstrating the ability to write for electronic media
3. Shooting usable video with audio
4. Editing and manipulating video, audio and layering these two elements together
5. Exhibit a degree of professionalism and ethics required in this profession
6. Combining all above goals to produce scripts and packages that can be used for Lantern TV

INSTRUCTOR'S ADVICE:

This is a very "hands-on" course because you only develop these skills with practice. That is why your projects and lab work weigh so heavily in determining your grade. Strong editing skills are critical to your success in this course. I strongly encourage everyone to concentrate on developing skill and speed as video editors. This will

require you to spend time practicing your editing skills on your own time. You will need to spend some time shooting video as well. I encourage you to spend a couple of hours “out in the field” with a camera before you attempt to shoot your first project. All of the shooting and editing of your major projects will be done outside class. This is your “homework”. It is your responsibility to decide the focus of your projects and then submit your project ideas to me via e-mail for approval. After your project idea is approved, you can schedule your interviews. Please plan ahead as we have a limited number of cameras and camera availability is not an excuse for missing a deadline.

I want to see every student grow and be successful. I need you to do your part-show up and participate. I am here to help you with this process. You are welcome to ask for help, more in depth information, assistance, or offer comments and suggestions. This course is designed specifically with you in mind.

REQUIRED READING:

The textbook will reinforce material taught in class. Our book can also be used as a resource with many examples to help facilitate understanding.

Television News: A Handbook for Reporting, Writing, Shooting, Editing, and Producing. (3rd Edition) By: Teresa Keller and Steve Hawkins. Holcomb Hathaway Publishers ISBN 978-1-890871-96-3

Recommended: *Write Like You Talk: A Guide to Broadcast News Writing.* By: Jeff Butera (available to order at www.WriteLikeYouTalk.com)

GRADING:

Grading will be very strict in this course to mirror the pressure professional broadcast journalists face. The OSU “standard scheme” of points grading as implemented by Carmen is used and I will try to keep the grades on Carmen’s grade book. Here is the **OSU “standard scheme”**: 93 - 100 (A), 90 - 92.99 (A-), 87 - 89.99 (B+), 83 - 86.99 (B), 80 - 82.99 (B-), 77 - 79.99 (C+), 73 - 76.99 (C), 70 - 72.99 (C-), 67 - 69.99 (D+), 60 - 66.99 (D), Below 60 (E). Note that there is *no rounding* in the points system.

This is a Pass/Fail course. You must receive 70.00 points or more to earn a satisfactory (passing) grade in this course. You must also submit both projects and complete 3 Lantern TV assignments to pass this course.

The following are the components of your grade for the term:

News Quizzes: 20% (8@2.5 points each)

Story Pitch: 5% (5@1 points each)

In class exercises: 20% (5@4 points each)

Newscast participation: 10%

Project #1: 20%

Project #2: 25%

Lantern TV stories: Each student is required to shoot three stories for Lantern TV during this course.

News Quizzes: A current events quiz will be given in eight different classes. Each quiz will test your knowledge of national, state, and local current events. A working journalist must keep up with the world around them. You must do the same.

Story Pitch: Each week we will conduct an editorial meeting at the beginning of class. Each student will be responsible for pitching one story idea and have 30 seconds to complete their pitch. You should explain what the idea is, why it is relevant to our viewers, and who you will interview for this story. I suggest having a backup in case another student pitches your same idea. If you pitch an event, you must be ready to explain the greater relevance or context that makes it important to our community. No pitches involving spot news or athletic events.

Discussion: Journalists are curious. They ask questions and share anecdotes. The success of this course hinges on your contributions and willingness to participate in professional discussions. You will be asked to offer your opinions, collaborate with your peers, and ask relevant questions.

In Class Exercises: Aspiring journalists must experience what professional journalists encounter. There will be five exercises that take place in class to mirror these “real world” experiences. You can expect to write on deadline, role play during a breaking news event, and participate in a press conference.

Newscasts: Students will collaborate and produce a newscast at least three times during this semester. Your assigned roles may rotate each time. Your work and preparation will ultimately culminate in a professional newscast.

Project #1 (due by 11:59pm) Package with anchor intro and tag

Running Time: 1:20-1:30 (not including anchor intro and tag)

Required elements: *At least two sound bites (SOTS) from 2 different interviewees.
*One standup. The standup cannot start or end your package.
*At least one 3-shot video sequence (noted on script).
*One instance of natural sound (Nat SOT) full (correctly marked on script).
*Script typed with proper format (including commands VO, SOT, NatSOT, PKG, etc).
* Package uploaded to youtube with link emailed to Harrison

Final Project (due by 11:59pm) Package with anchor intro and tag

Running Time: 1:30-1:45 (not including anchor intro and tag)

Required elements: *At least three bites (SOTS) from at least two different interviews.
*One standup. The standup cannot start or end your package.
*At least one 3-shot video sequence (noted on script)

- *One matched action sequence involving at least three pieces of video (noted on script). This MUST be part of the project – not separate from it.
- *Two instances of natural sound (Nat SOT) full (correctly marked on script)
- *This must be a character centered story.
- *Script typed with proper format (including commands VO, SOT, NatSOT, PKG, etc).
- *Package uploaded to youtube with link emailed to Harrison

****MISSED DEADLINES EARN ZERO POINTS**

Note: Students are NOT allowed to turn in any project work for this class that has also been used or will be used as an assignment, project, report or interview for any other class without prior agreement from the instructor.

Missed deadlines result in automatic failure of the assignment/project. Fact errors can also result in failure of the assignment/project. Stories with conflicts of interest of the reporter will result in automatic failure. Grades on stories can be lowered (e.g. to zero) as the result of students misrepresenting themselves or otherwise being unprofessional while working on story assignments.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Not all classes fit your schedule or your academic plan, and I understand that. Please know, however, that I very much wish to meet with you before you drop (especially the deeper we get into the semester) to see what we can do to work through any challenges together. If you do have questions about how to drop or the impact on your transcript or financial aid, please visit the Academic Advising website.

SYLLABUS

Every effort has been made to create a syllabus that is as comprehensive and accurate as possible, but each class is a living entity and changes may arise. Please know I will notify you in writing as soon as any syllabus change may arise.

SAFE & HEALTHY

Keeping students healthy and preventing the spread of illness is important to The Ohio State University. Students are encouraged to stay home if they are sick and may be asked to leave class if they are coughing/sneezing. Students who are sick and cannot attend class must contact Prof. Hunt *BEFORE* class to receive class any materials and turn in assignments via the drop box or e-mail. If you do not notify Prof. Hunt your assignment will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic

misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-31-02). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

MANAGING STRESS

College can be a stressful time, and I am always here to help you—in this class and beyond. If, however, you feel you need more support, I encourage you to reach out to the Student Advocacy Center at 292.1111. They will always work with professors on your behalf.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614- 292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(tentative, subject to change as needed)

Week 1 (8/25)

- Syllabus Review
- Introductions
- Equipment Policy review
- Newsroom Vocabulary (and examples)
- Writing for Electronic Media Overview
- Read *Television News* Chapters 6, 7

Week 2 (9/1)

- News Quiz
- Writing for Electronic Media Review
- Deadline writing exercise #1 (graded)
- Storytelling techniques
- Storytelling examples, discussion, and critique
- Read *Television News* Chapter 1, 2

Week 3 (9/8)

- News Quiz
- Story Pitch
- Interview Techniques
- How to mic interviewees, camera audio check (headphones!)
- Interview Framing, 2 shots

- Establishing Shots
- Sequences (close/tight, medium, long)
- The gear, what is in each kit, how to properly use and care for the gear.
- Read *Television News* Chapter 8

Week 4 (9/15)

- News Quiz
- Story Pitch
- Deadline writing exercise #2 (graded)
- Jump cuts
- Matched action sequences
- Camera/Gear Review
- Hands on Camera exercise
- Read *Television News* Chapter 9

Week 5 (9/22)

- News Quiz
- Deadline writing exercise #3 (graded)
- Editing can make or break a story
- Final Cut Demo
- Final Cut exercise (editing sequences, manipulating audio, inserting nat pops)
- Read *Television News* Chapter 10

Project #1 Story Idea due via email by Friday at 11:59pm eastern time.

Week 6 (9/29)

- News Quiz
- Story Pitch
- Breaking News Group 1 (graded)
- Package Writing
- Examples of packages and discussion
- Standups (framing, background, placement, purpose)
- Informative vs demonstrative
- Bridge standup vs closing
- Internship and job search
- Read *Television News* Chapter 12

Week 7 (10/6)

TBA

Week 8 (10/13) No Class, Fall Break

Week 9 (10/20)

- News Quiz
- Story Pitch

- Shooting/Editing/Writing last questions
 - Mock Press Conference, Deadline writing #4 (graded)
 - Breaking News Group 2 (graded)
 - Guest Speaker
 - Read *Television News* Chapter 3
- Project #1 Due by Friday 11:59pm eastern time.**

Week 10 (10/27)

- News Quiz
- Story Pitch
- Ethics 101
- Ethical Dilemmas
- Breaking News Group 3 (graded)
- Guest Speaker

Week 11 (11/3)

- News Quiz
 - Project 1 feedback
 - Creating a demo reel
 - Lantern TV Studio introduction (indicate job preferences)
 - Lantern TV Studio exercise
 - Read *Television News* Chapter 11
- Project #2 Story Idea due via email by Friday at 11:59pm eastern time.**

Week 12 (11/10)

- Compile stories, prepare newscast
- Newscast practice run through
- Record Newscast
- Read *Television News* Chapter 13

Week 13 (11/17)

- Newscast critique
- Compile stories, prepare newscast
- Newscast practice run through
- Record Newscast

Week 14 (11/24) No Class- Thanksgiving

Week 15 (12/1)

- Newscast critique
 - Compile stories, prepare newscast
 - Newscast practice run through
 - Record newscast
 - Parting thoughts
- Project #2 Due Friday by 11:59pm eastern time.**

Please note: This schedule is subject to change