2016 Autumn Syllabus

SPORTS MEDIA

Wednesday~Friday 12:45-2:05 p.m.

281 Journalism
Team Description & Season Goals

**Description**

It's easy to be a sports fan, but far more challenging is the chronicling the world of sports using the media tools on which consumers have come to count. This class is designed to teach all aspects of media interaction with sports, from legacy media reporter to web-based blogger, from broadcaster to communication specialist, from social media poster to in-house talent.

We will explore sports media as a career, utilizing journalism skills like interviewing, reporting, blogging, working with coaches and athletic directors, staging and covering press conferences, statistics, etc. We also focus on issues related to sports coverage, including race and gender, hero worship and the ethics of what sports journalists do and why they do it.

**Remember, we are journalists, so leave your team jerseys at home!**

This is not a class where you can be passive and do well–your engagement and participation is a key part of your success in the course.

**Season Goals**

By the end of the semester, journalists will have the ability to:

1. Understand the evolution of sports careers and what opportunities exist.
2. Create different types of sports stories in different media.
3. Learn how to work in a variety of sports environments, from reporting to PR.
4. Develop skills that relate to sports media jobs, from broadcasting to statistics.
5. Understand and follow proper sports reporting ethics.

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**Playbooks**

*Required: Field Guide to Covering Sports (Joe Gisondi), ISBN 978-1-60426-559-0*


*Required: AP Stylebook 2016 edition*

*Required: Read ESPN.Com, SI.com, and the Columbus Dispatch and Lantern sports pages regularly.*

*Required: Watch a local sports newscast and ESPN SportsCenter a couple of times a week at least and try to listen to some 97.1 sports talk radio.*
# 2016 Autumn Schedule

All readings/videos due before class Wednesday

## August

**What is Sports Media?**

- Class intro and review media guide
- Go through syllabus & identify Ohio State sports schedules for coverage

**Careers in sports media**

- Assignment: Develop class twitter & blog
- Post 1: Why do you want a career in sports, and what does that career look like?
  - Module 1b readings and video

**Evolution of sports media: How we got from Red Smith to Stephen A Smith.**

- Module 2a readings and videos
- Assignment: Submit to Canvas one each best/worst examples of sports coverage for evaluation

**How to Write for Sports News and PR**

- Module 2b readings and video
  - Assignment: Identify beats and event to cover, generating three story ideas based around Ohio State sports and put on Google sheet.

## September

**Writing Sports**

- Beat Writing and Developing Stories
  - Module 3a readings and video
  - Assignment: Watch assigned event, write game story in class.

**Writing Sports: Covering Games, Advance, Analysis**

- Module 3b readings and video
  - Assignment: Meet some sources in class

**Finding sources and developing relationships**

- Module 4a readings and video
  - Assignment: Edit and rewrite first article.

**Story ideas, finding angles**

- Module 5a readings and video
  - Assignment: Working w/ data and develop story ideas.

**Profiles and personalities**

- Module 6a readings and video
  - Assignment: Feature article development

**Column writing**

- Module 6b readings and video
  - Assignment: Columns development, Game Story due

**Learning to blog**

- Module 4b readings and video
  - Assignment: Blog development, Game Story due

## October

**Sports Multimedia**

- Feeling Social: Social Media in Sports
  - Module 7a readings and video
  - Assignment: Refining social media, guest speaker on careers.

**Multimedia in Sports Coverage: Social and beyond**

- Module 7b readings and video
  - Assignment: What media bring reporting to life?

**Time for TV: Studio Work and Reporting**

- Module 8a readings and video
  - Assignment: How to become an anchor/reporter.

**FALL BREAK-No Class**

- **Assignment due**

## November

**In-House Sports Media**

- In-House Features
  - Module 11a readings and video
  - Assignment: Exploring in-house PR

**Press Releases, Press Kits, Press Box**

- Module 11b readings and video
  - Assignment: Exploring in-house media

**Media Guide Creation**

- Module 12a readings and video
  - Assignment: What would it take to work in athletics at OSU?

**On the Road**

- Module 13a readings and video
  - Assignment: Exploring coverage of controversial athletes, events

**Sports Media Ethics**

- Module 13b readings and video
  - Assignment: What is OK and what crosses the line

**PR Package due**

- **Assignment due**

**Covering Controversies: When Sport = Life**

- Module 14a readings and video
  - Assignment: Coverage of controversial athletes, events

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: No Class**

- Enjoy your family time!

## December

**Ready to Report**

- **Final Project Reporting**
  - Assignment: Work with team to complete final project

**Final Project Presentations**

- Assignment: Show us what you have created!

**Final Project Due!**

- **Assignment due**

**VETERANS DAY: No Class**

- Thank a veteran!

**Sexism, Racism and Sports**

- Module 15a readings and video
  - Assignment: Create media campaign for a team
Nicole Kraft, Assistant Professor (clinical)

After 25 years as a journalist, Nicole Kraft joined the Ohio State School of Communication faculty as an assistant professor of journalism in 2010. Nicole began her career in sports in 1984 as an intern with the Golden State Warriors before joining the Philadelphia 76ers in 1985 to work in publicity and statistics. She helped create the Sixers Media Guide and was a regular contributor to Hoop Magazine. She later covered high school sports for The Montgomery County Record and Montgomery Newspapers, before focusing her career on news, politics and government reporting. After a stint as a Congressional press secretary and as editor at the Napa Valley Register she returned to sports in 1996 as associate editor of Hoof Beats. She became the magazine’s executive editor and director of communication for the sport of harness racing.

A USA Hockey certified coach and avid “hockey mom,” Nicole currently writes for the Associated Press covering the Columbus Blue Jackets. She is vice president of communication for the Columbus Ice Hockey Club and president of the Bishop Watterson Hockey Board.

On the academic front, Nicole’s focus in teaching and research has been utilizing iPads and iTunes U to create “active learning” environments in journalism classrooms and provide a self-contained learning environment for multimedia journalism. She teaches every summer in Ethiopia, where she focuses on distance education pedagogy.

In 2015 she was named an Apple Distinguished Educator, and is currently pursuing a PhD in global education.

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The Main Points

Take every pre-conceived notion you have about classes and learning and professors and throw them out the window for this experience. You do not do work in here for a grade, and you do not do work for me as your professor. In truth, I am your editor, and you are all journalists, and the work you do is for a) readers and b) to make you employable once you move into the world.

You have now all become beat reporters, which will allow you to focus the sport you will cover and become master of your own story idea domain. That means the majority of ideas will be generated for you, by you.

The standards here are professional, not academic, and your primary work product will be questions. I expect you to ask “why” and “how” on a daily basis, while you discover and uncover and explore.

That said, you are here to fail as much as you succeed. Take chances, try new things, don’t be afraid to fiddle. This is a life laboratory, and the more we experiment, the more discoveries we will make.

If you are seeking a “sage on the stage” who will lecture while you passively write down every holy nugget I say, I’m afraid this is not the class for you. My role here is your guide. We will discover together and learn much from each other.

To that extent, we don’t have “office hours” (not even sure what that term means). Instead, we have a Sports Desk, where we can work in groups or individually, hang out and talk, debate topics of the day, etc. I heard recently of a great question from an editor who called for a reference check on a student applying for a job: “What is he going to be ready to do on Day One and what is he not ready for that’s going to mean more work for me?”

How do you want me to answer this question about you after you complete this course? How would you answer it? We will figure both out in here.

Actual Points

Course grades will be calculated in the following way:

Perusall Readings (25 points)
Professionalism and in-Class Tweets (25 points)
Weekly in-class assessment (including AP Style) (100 points)
Blogging/In-Class Assignments (100 points)
Game/event Coverage--DUE Sept. 16 (100 points)
Press Conference Story--DUE Sept. 30 (100 points)
Feature Profile--DUE Oct. 12 (100 points)
PR Package--DUE Oct. 28 (150 points)
Broadcast Reporting Project--DUE Nov. 18 (150 points)
Group Enterprise Project--DUE Dec. 7 (200 points)

These points tallied together will give you your final grade of the following percentages (100-93=A; 92-90=A-; 89-88=B+; 88-83=B; 82-80=B; 79-78=C+; 77-73=C; 72-70=C-; 69-60=D; 59 and below=E). I do not negotiate grades, either during or after the semester.

DATE OF FINAL EXAM: Check Ohio State link
**Assignments**

**Perusall Readings (25 points)**
Our class readings will be engaged through a platform called PERUSALL, a new ebook platform with collaborative annotation that keeps you on track before class. You annotate passages spread through each reading, asking questions, respond to each other’s questions (in threads, Facebook-style), or share other perspectives or knowledge. You follow a specific grading rubric based on the annotations’ intellectual content, timeliness, and helpfulness to their fellow students. Perusall’s data analytics automatically grade these annotations more accurately than (human) teaching assistants can. See Pages 15 for more information.

**Twitter and attendance (25 points)**
In an effort to build your familiarity with using Twitter professionally, and to help you build a responsible and productive online “brand,” we take attendance through Twitter. Every student gets credit for attendance by tweeting something about our coverage, our class session or asking a question, with the goal of engaging your classmates, the outside world and me. It cannot be just that you were there.
This, however, should be just the start of your Twitter engagement. Sources and stories live on twitter, and it enhances your potential access exponentially. Start posting TODAY about your beat, stories you plan to write, interviews you hope to do. Build brand YOU! We will spend time on this in class, but the impetus and desire to engage must come from you.
Professionalism means many things in the working world—dressing for success, treating coworkers with respect, coming prepared, being on time, staying the whole session, not making excuses, no absences, accepting responsibility for work and effort. You will be assessed on all in here.
In the real world, failure to show up for your job or repeatedly coming in late will get you fired. I won’t fire you, but there are always consequences for actions. Tardiness is unprofessional and rude. You get one. The second one gets recorded. At the third tardiness you will be docked half a letter grade for that one and every subsequent tardy. The same rules apply for absences.

**Wednesday Morning Quarterback (100 point)**
There are few better sports moments than the chance to analyze the action that has already transpired.
To start most class we will discuss the sports that transpired between our meeting times, and we will assess your consumption and understanding of the material. This will, on 10 occasions, include a 10-questions Speed Sports assessment assignment, including current events, AP Style and class lectures.
They will not be difficult if you have read the assigned material and if you have been staying tuned to ESPN.com, SI.com, the Columbuss Dispatch sports pages, The Lantern and Lantern TV, and ESPN SportsCenter. The top 10 scores on the quizzes will count toward your grade. This means you could miss two of quizzes.
There will be NO excuses for missing class or a activity.

**Blogging/In-Class Assignments (100 points—10 points each)**
Blogging will be a big part of a modern-day sports writing career and we will use it in class to help build your online identity and report 10 in-class writing opportunities, including event coverage, press conferences, breaking news, game recaps, interview exercises, videos, photos and audio reporting. You will start these assignments in class but, if needed, finish as homework.

**Game/event Coverage (100 points)**
For this assignment, you will attend an actual athletic event with the goal of reporting it for your readers. This is not the same as writing a game recap, which we will do as an in-class exercise. This will mean covering what happened, getting post-event quotes and looking at the event from a creative angle that makes your story stand out to those who already know the outcome of the event.

**Advance Feature/Profile (100 points)**
Capturing the spirit of those who play the game is one of the best parts of being a sports reporter. In this assignment, you will have the chance to write a mini-biography of an athlete, combining his or her past with the “news hook” of the upcoming game or match. The key in this assignment is to explore an athlete’s life inside and outside their sport to bring them to life for fans and go behind the uniform.

**PR Package (150 points)**
Creating pre-game materials is a significant part of a sports PR professional. For this assignment, you will get us ready for an upcoming Ohio State game, by creating a feature on a player, a press release promoting some unique facet of the game, and 20 individual game notes including statistics, interesting facts and milestones.

**Broadcast Reporting Project (150 points)**
In this assignment, we will put down notepads and computers and learn to tell an event or athlete story through different forms of media, specifically video and audio. We will shoot and edit a video package to show, as well as tell, a story. This will require different types of interviewing and coverage skills that we will develop on class.

**Group Enterprise Project (200 points)**
For your final, you will take all the skills you have developed in class and work with a team to create a comprehensive package on a significant sports issue, utilizing strong journalistic writing, data analysis, comprehensive interviewing, multimedia storytelling and a blog platform. This project cannot be just game coverage or a profile of a person. You will need to look at an in-depth issue, such as head injuries in football, fighting in hockey, pass-fail rates for college athletes, injuries suffered by pre-teen athletes, etc.
### Coaching Methods

I am a great believer in the power of students to engage in and drive their own education, which means taking a greater responsibility for an engagement in what happens in your classes. To that end, I do not subscribe to the “sage on the stage” class ideology, whereby I would lecture and you would (hopefully) listen. Instead, we follow what is known as the “ac” model, live learning which means your read and watch short videos at home on BEFORE CLASS.

Our class time is then dedicated to engaging with the material through a variety of activities and assessments to determine and build your comprehension.

With the active class model, students establish the foundation as part of that home pre-work, and then we build the structure of learning together, allowing us to see and correct weaknesses in the foundation and the structure.

I believe that this model helps students learn better, and in a speed and style that is more conducive to their needs. Do you learn better at 3 a.m. or 7 p.m.? Great! Class materials are available to you at any time of day or night through this model.

The workload is the same—meaning for a three-credit class for every hour of work you do in class you will need to come to class. As I said, that is the foundation. To truly build something meaningful, all of us we must work together.

### Lunch anyone?

My goal is to get to know each of you better as students and people, to help your academic goals throughout this semester and beyond. Invite me to coffee or lunch—I will buy our lunch? Check out Take Your Professor to Lunch!

### Extra credit

The total amount of extra credit available in this class is 20 points (2 percent). It can be earned in these ways:

- Taking part in School of Communication research.
- Attend journalism-themed meetings or events identified by me, such as Society for Professional Journalism meetings (every other Thursday), Ed2010 meetings, campus lectures and films, etc.

### Technology Expense Statement

This course, like journalism as a whole, relies heavily on access to computers, specific software, and the Internet.

At some point during the semester you will likely have a problem with technology. Your laptop will crash; your iPad battery will die; a recording you make will disappear; you will accidentally delete a file; the wireless will go down at a crucial time. These, however, are inevitabilities of life, not emergencies. Technology problems are not excuses for unfinished or late work. Bad things may happen, but you can protect yourself by doing the following:

- **Plan ahead:** A deadline is the last minute to turn in material. You can start—and finish—early, particularly if challenging resources are required, or you know it will be time consuming to finish this project.
- **Save work early and often:** Think how much work you do in 10 minutes. I auto save every 2 minutes.
- **Make regular backups of files in a different location:** Between Box, Google Drive, Dropbox and iCloud, you have ample places to store and back up your materials. Use them.
- **Save drafts:** When editing, set aside the original and work with a copy.
- **Practice safe computing:** On your personal computer, install and use software to control viruses. Use them.
Special Attractions

Sources
You need at least at least two human sources for every article but, more importantly, you must have sources that have expertise to speak on your article topic. If you can Urban Meyer, that is a coup—unless you are writing on volleyball or baseball or tennis or any other sport for which he has no knowledge or experience. Then he is useless.

As convenient as they may be, we do not use friends, roommates, relatives, etc., as sources for your stories, photographs, graphics etc. This is a conflict of interest. That said, we recognize you have the potential to be classmates with any athlete. If you are, great! Start asking some questions.

That conflict policy also spreads out to any activities, organizations, projects, companies, etc. in which you are involved in, but you can share story ideas with fellow reporters.

No Sharing
As much as we love to share information, we do not share your stories with other classes. Stories done for credit/grade in this class cannot be used for credit in any other class. They can, however, be utilized for publication in The Lantern!

Ask Away
I know no matter how many times I encourage you to talk to me if you have questions, many of you will instead reach out to friends and classmates. I still desperately want you to reach out to me, but to help you reach out to fellow class reporters, everyone has been assigned to an editorial team with whom you will be able to work this semester.

Mobile Technology
Although many classes may ban or limit the use of mobile technology, in this class we will learn to use your mobile phone and tablet for reporting and disseminating news—in other words, for good and not evil. Keep it out and be prepared to use it for class work, which will include tweeting, posting to Instagram and Facebook, Snapchatting, using Periscope and finding sources on LinkedIn. That said, this is not the time to text and tweet your friends to hook up later or surf the web. It’s time to use all the tools at our disposal for work!

Developing Life Skills
Dr. Tony Wagner, co-director of Harvard’s Change Leadership Group, has identified what he calls a “global achievement gap,” which is the gap between what even our best schools are teaching, and the must-have skills of the future (2000). These are the skills we will aim for you to develop in here!

1. Critical thinking skills
2. Collaboration across networks and leading by influence
3. Agility and adaptability
4. Initiative and entrepreneurship
5. Effective oral and written communication
6. Accessing and analyzing information
7. Curiosity and imagination

Post-Game Notes

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.

Resources
During the course of this class and throughout your university career, you may find the following helpful:

- The Writing Center. This may be the last time in your life that you have easily accessible, free help available for your writing skills—use it. Being a good writer will give you an advantage in every walk of life, and if you are a Communication major, it is expected. Visit http://cstw.osu.edu/writingcenter to learn more or to schedule an appointment.

- Strunk & White’s The Elements of Style. If you are uncertain of what constitutes good writing, this classic book is very straightforward and extremely helpful. The advice and direction offered in this book applies to writing in all fields. Find it at the campus bookstore or at a used bookstore for cheap.

Attendance and Make-Ups:
Only students enrolled in this section are permitted to attend class. Attendance (both physical and mental) is key to your success in this class. Your grade is largely contingent on your presence and participation in class. Listen, take notes, and ask questions. Much of the material presented in lecture is not found in your readings. If you miss class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate; the instructor will not provide notes in any circumstance. If you miss class, you will not be able to make up any in-class work or extra credit opportunities.

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 (and to me!). 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. Kraft BEFORE class to receive class any materials and turn in assignments via the drop box or e-mail. If you do not notify Prof. Kraft, your assignment will not be accepted.

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.
Annotating in Perusall

Perusall helps you master readings faster, understand the material better, and get more out of your classes. To achieve this goal, you will be collaboratively annotating the textbook with others in your class. The help you’ll get and provide your classmates (even if you don’t know anyone personally) will get you past confusions quickly, and will make the process more fun. While you read, you’ll receive rapid answers to your questions, help others resolve their questions (which also helps you learn), and advise the instructor how to make class time most productive. You can start a new annotation thread in Perusall by highlighting text, asking a question, or posting a comment; you can also add a reply or comment to an existing thread. Each thread is like a chat with one or more members of your class. Your goals in annotating each reading assignment are to stimulate discussion by posting good questions or comments and to help others by answering their questions.

Research shows that by annotating thoughtfully, you’ll learn more and get better grades; so here’s what “annotating thoughtfully” means: Effective annotations deeply engage points in the readings, stimulate discussion, offer informative questions or comments, and help others by addressing their questions or confusions. To this end your annotations are evaluated on the basis of quality, timeliness, quantity, and distribution:

**Quality**
The reading replaces the lectures so that you can engage in more useful activities in class. Therefore it is important that you read the text thoughtfully and attempt to lay the foundation for the in-class activities. To achieve this goal, you will be collaboratively annotating the textbook with others in your class. Each of your annotations is assigned one of the following evaluations:

2 = Demonstrates thorough and thoughtful reading AND insightful interpretation of the reading
1 = Demonstrates reading, but no (or only superficial) interpretation of the reading
0 = Does not demonstrate any thoughtful reading or interpretation

See the examples on the next page to see the quality criterion applied to sample annotations.

**Quantity**
We compute your overall score using your five highest-quality annotations for each assignment, so be sure to write at least this number to ensure the best score. Because we want you to engage in a natural conversation with your classmates through your annotations, your overall score only depends on these five highest-quality annotations. So, as long as you have five high-quality annotations, a brief response to another student (e.g., answering “Yes” to what is just a yes or no question) won’t hurt your overall score, even though by itself that response is nominally a “0.”

**Timeliness**
The work done in class depends on you having done the reading in advance, so completing the reading and posting your annotations before the posted deadline is required to receive credit. Your instructor may choose to allow a late annotation period during which the credit for your annotations linearly decreases from 100% at the deadline to 0% at the end of the late annotation period.

To encourage discourse, there is always a three-day reply window after each posted deadline during which you can continue to reply, for full credit, to questions posted by others. However, the number of additional points you can earn during the post-deadline reply window is capped at the credit you receive for annotations made on that assignment before the deadline.

**Distribution**
To lay the foundation for understanding the in-class activities, you must at least familiarize yourself with each assignment in its entirety. Annotating only part of the text and/or failing to distribute your annotations throughout the document lowers your overall score.

**Overall Evaluation:** You will receive an overall evaluation for each reading assignment based on the criteria above as follows: 3 = exceptional (rarely given), 2 = meets expectations, 1 = needs improvement, 0 = insufficient

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**Perusall Scoring Example**

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**Module 1: In-Class Activities in Sports**

Module 1: In-Class Activities in Sports

**ANOTATION**
No substance. Does not demonstrate any thoughtful interpretation of the text.

**EVALUATION**
0

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**Module 2: Evolution of Media**

Module 2: Evolution of Media

**ANOTATION**
Does not demonstrate any thoughtful interpretation of the text.

**EVALUATION**
0

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**Module 3: In-Class Activities in Sports**

Module 3: In-Class Activities in Sports

**ANOTATION**
Responds to the question by thoughtfully integrating another concept.

**EVALUATION**
2

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**Module 4: Working in Sports**

Module 4: Working in Sports

**ANOTATION**
Includes thought-provoking questions that force student to think about the text.

**EVALUATION**
2

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**Module 5: In-Class Activities in Sports**

Module 5: In-Class Activities in Sports

**ANOTATION**
Provides a synthesis of multiple concepts.

**EVALUATION**
3

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**Module 6: In-Class Activities in Sports**

Module 6: In-Class Activities in Sports

**ANOTATION**
Does not demonstrate a thought-provoking interpretation of the text.

**EVALUATION**
0
Academic Dishonesty

It is your responsibility to complete your own work as best you can in the time provided. The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, possession of unauthorized materials during an examination, and falsification of laboratory or other data. Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp

Academic misconduct is a serious offense, and it is my responsibility to make sure it does not occur. If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. If you have any questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact your professor or TA, or visit the COAM web page at http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html.

In most instances, taking your own work from one course and submitting it in a different course is also considered academic dishonesty. This does not apply to submitting articles to The Lantern or Lantern TV for publication—that is encouraged!

When in doubt, consult me before doing anything about which you are uncertain. You should also read through the “Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity” available at https://oaa.osu.edu/coamtensuggestions.html

Time for Twitter

Treating this class like a job will go a long way toward helping you be prepared for your post-graduation life. Your ability to come on time, contribute to discussions, turn in work on time, treat classmates with respect, dress appropriately, and communicate respectfully and clearly in person and in writing will earn you professionalism points.

Among the skills you need to master is how to use social media for good and not (potential) evil. I believe it or not, everything you do or eat is not worth putting on public, open-to-the-world social media. What is worth publishing are the activities, experiences, thoughts, work product and information that will make a potential employer think you worthy of hiring.

To that end we will use Twitter, professionally, for every class. Between the beginning and end of class tweet something significant to your followers—a concept from class, an article, information shared by a guest speaker. Include a photo and link where possible.

This will count as your attendance and your initial foray into the professional nature of your social brand. In addition to your posts, make your profile as professional as possible with a strong Twitterography that includes details of significance to who you wish others to think you to be.

Put in a photo that helps others see you as a serious journalist (it should just be you with no companions). Include a website if you have one, or create a LinkedIn to serve as a resume site.

The goal is we all learn the potential impact of Twitter in “talking” to the word—and learn how to prevent negative impacts. Your tweet cannot be just that you were in class. There has to be a complete thought behind it. Use the hashtag #ososportsmedia for all posts.

Please follow the hashtag #ososportsmedia and follow me (@nicole_kraft), so I can put you in our list.
Sports Desk

The Comm 3403 Sports Desk will be meet Tuesdays from 1-3 in 3045E Derby Hall. Come to discuss topics or articles, get feedback on ideas, or just to talk sports.

Writing Bar

Writing Bar hours will be Mondays from 4:15-6:15 in the Digital Union, located in the basement of Denney Hall. Bring your articles or magazine designs to get on-on-one help from writing experts, who can walk you through the process from idea to reporting to execution. Clinics will be held to facilitate your projects. Appointments are welcome but not required. Please sign up on Slack at #writingbar.

The Comm 3403 Writing Bar mentors will include students and professional journalists. We can also connect you with journalists who cover your area of interest.

Among the key areas for which we wish to prepare you are internships at publications and sports teams.

Every semester, professors around Ohio State include a line in their syllabi encouraging students to visit them in “office hours.”

And every semester those same professors sit alone in their offices, wondering why students do not come by.

Not so for Comm 3403.

Instead of office hours, this class will feature a “Sports Desk,” where students will be able to come and get help on their articles, and discuss topics and techniques.

The goal is for students to join in a collective and congenial environment of dialogue and discussion, as opposed to simple questions and answers.

Bring your favorite sports publications and articles for us to break down and figure out how to emulate. Read a compelling piece and let’s discuss how it was put together, and how you might craft one that is similar.

In addition, students can come and get assignment and class help from Kraft and a team of students who will offer weekly “Writing Bar” sessions.

The Writing Bar will be much like an Apple Genius Bar, where students can come and get one-on-one help from people who know the subject matter best—students who have already taken journalism classes and excelled.

Slack

To keep us communicating as closely as possible, I have created communities for us on an application called Slack, which is available on both your laptop, desktop and mobile devices.

Slack will take the place of email, allowing us to have both public and private discussions about class, share files (but not assignments), and keep a record of all we discuss in themed “channels.”

Slack works through a system of hashtags, much like Twitter. But only members of a given team can see the postings on the hashtag.

You’ll also get the most out of Slack if you install the mobile app (iOS / Android) and the desktop app (Mac / Windows) so you get desktop notifications about new messages and can keep up with what’s happening without needing to leave a browser window open.

Slack commands you need to know

@channel

A channel in Slack is like a “room” for discussions, usually arranged around a topic of discussion or the relevant team. To send a notification to everyone in the channel, type @channel and then your message.

This can be annoying if you’re in a large channel, particularly if there are people across a lot of time zones. People tend to use @channel a lot, but it’s useful for getting everyone’s attention.

@username

To send a notification to a specific person inside a channel, type @username. To alert me, type @nicole.

@here

Like @channel but only notifies people that are online and active, so less annoying.

/me

If you want to talk in third person, this is for you. For example, if you’re going to lunch, you’d type “/me is going to lunch” and it would show as “Owen is going to lunch.”

DM

Direct/private message between you and one other person.

Private Group

Like a channel, but by invitation only. Useful as a ‘disposable’ room for events, quick team discussions or gossip.

/open

Opens a new channel.

/leave

Drop out of a channel.

/collapse

Hides all images and GIFs in a channel.

When you sign in to Slack for the first time, every type of notification imaginable is enabled. There are many different ways to manage notifications.

Each channel has individual notification preferences, so you can get notifications for every message, just your name being mentioned or nothing at all.

To get to the settings, open the channel you want to change and click the name of it at the top of the screen, then “channel notification preferences.”

From here you can set up both mobile and desktop notifications so the alerts only go where you want them.
Important Links and Personalities

We are lucky to have many friends in the sports media industry who will be sharing their and experiences with us. Here are some potential guest speakers to visit or Skype in!

Talk Radio
Lori Schmidt, 97.1

Print/Online
Todd Jones, Columbus Dispatch*
Aaron Portzline, Columbus Dispatch*
Craig Merz, NHL.com
Charlie Leerhsen (Former SI editor)
Zach Meisel (MLB.com, Lantern editor)*

Social Media
Zach Fleer, 270 Hoops*
Kurt Gies, social media coordinator, Philadelphia 76ers*

Team PR
Karen Davis, Columbus Blue Jackets*
Dan Wallenberg, Ohio State Buckeyes*
Leann Parker, Ohio State Buckeyes*
Patrick Maks, Cleveland Browns
Alex Stec, Columbus Crew*
Colleen Mar, U.S. Olympics*

Sport PR
Brent LaLonde, Arnold Classic

TV
Dan Plesac, MLB Network*
Bill Davidge, Columbus Blue Jackets*
Chris Spielman, Fox Sports
Marc Zumoff, Philadelphia 76ers*

Photography
Bill Frakes
*confirmed
10 Sports Journalism Rules

1. No cheering in the press box. You are not a Buckeye—you are a journalist.
2. No spirit wear during coverage of games, press conferences or any team events.
3. Always prepare and background before a game or interview.
4. Technology demands redundancy. Take notes even if you’re taping. Always have extra batteries, tapes, SD cards.
5. Act professionally in how you dress and how you act.
6. No one cares what you think; write what others think.
7. Do not date those who you cover.
8. No autographs or special favors from those you cover.
9. You are not the expert—your sources are!
10. It’s better to be second and right than first and wrong.

Commitment to Diversity

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University and Kraft Comm Classes embrace and maintain an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School and this class, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.