

Communication & Journalism-334 Syllabus

Broadcast News Workshop

Instructor: Al Folker

Meeting Times: Mondays, 8:00am and arranged, Instructor: Al Folker, Director of Television Services, 424-3133, folker@uwosh.edu, A/C W213 (Office) (Office) Monday 9:00am – 12:30pm, Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30pm, Friday 10:30 – 11:30 (Other meeting times can be arranged.)

Live Newscast and Recording Time: Friday Noon – 12:30pm

- Week #1, 9/10: Get organized, reserve equipment, train on equipment, transcribe news package from either NBC, CBS, ABC**
- Week #2, 9/17: Shoot and edit practice news package, practice newscast on Friday, transcribe news package from either CNN, Fox Cable, MSNBC, or CNBC**
- Week #3, 9/24: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 1st newscast, transcribe news package from either WBAY, WFRV, Fox 11, NBC 26**
- Week #4, 10/1: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 2nd newscast**
- Week #5, 10/8: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 3rd newscast**
- Week #6, 10/15: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 4th newscast**
- Week #7, 10/22: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 5th newscast**
- Week #8, 10/29: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 6th newscast**
- Week #9, 11/5: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 7th newscast**
- Week #10, 11/12: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 8th newscast**
- Week #11, 11/19: Class meets, no newscast due to Thanksgiving**
- Week #12, 11/26: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 9th newscast,**
- Week #13, 12/3: Shoot and edit news package for air, record 10th newscast,**
- Week #14, 12/10: Class meets, no newscast due to finals week**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Produce, shoot, and edit a 1½ to 2 minute news package for 11 weeks. Keep the audience as the focus, not your personal interests. Be responsible and cooperative with your partner. Learn to be an ethical electronic journalist. Be proud of your work and its contribution to Titan TV News. Be a storyteller and develop your own style of writing, shooting, editing, and reporting.

PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Have a completed package turned in by 4:00pm on Thursdays every week. Include a written story introduction and ending for the anchor person. Indicate the character generations that need to be entered and where displayed in the package (timed out). Provide the total running time of your package when you turn it in.

Be sure you find a time when you and your partner can get together with me to review your story and get feedback. It only takes 5 minutes. I have time available on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30 – 12:30pm.

Attendance policy is: If you are not in class without a viable excuse, your grade for the week will be reduced by one grade. If you come late to class, your grade will be reduced by .5 for the week.

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STORIES

Turn your stories into the box in the newsroom on the 2nd floor. Pick up your stories after the newscast on Fridays. You are encouraged to develop stories on your own. If you haven't a clue as to what you should cover, there are copies of the Oshkosh Northwestern in the newsroom. Watch a lot of television news. Become a news junkie.

EQUIPMENT

The engineers will provide you with the tapes you will need to tape and edit onto. You will need one tape to shoot in the field and one tape to edit your final package. Make sure you get a new tape each week for editing your final package. Do not put more than one final story onto a tape. Field tapes can be used over again. If you decide you want to save a story for your resume tape, dub it off onto another tape. We can't afford to have you store the whole semester's stories on 10 different tapes.

If you are Betacam certified, you should reserve a camera when you and your partner can shoot together. If you are not Betacam certified, either the engineers or I can train you in its use. Otherwise, you can check out the Sony mini-DV cameras with a little training from myself or the engineers.

You need to decide whether you will be doing tape-to-tape editing on Betacam cuts only systems or editing on one of our non-linear edit systems. Reserve your editing time now, when you and your partner can work together. One of the partners should know how to do editing and will train the ones who don't. Put academy leader (number counter) at the head of every package. Allow at least 1 or 2 seconds overrun on the first and last shot of the package.

GRADES

The worst thing you can do is to not do a story every week, unless you have a technical malfunction. Missing a story will reduce your final grade by one grade. You will be evaluated for your newsgathering skills, writing, and on-camera reporting, when you choose to be the reporter. You will be evaluated for your camera operation, lighting, and editing, when you choose to be a videographer. Try not to worry or focus on your grades or that this is a class. Look at it as a professional experience with a focus on the Oshkosh audience. Grades will follow as a secondary reward.

WORKING TOGETHER

You will be expected to work together as a team. Once in a while we have problems with people cooperating with each other or coordinating their schedules. You need to work this out and get as much experience as possible. That means learning how to shoot and edit, if you are a reporter only. Not working together usually affects your grade. TV reporting is a 2 or 3 person operation at the professional level and requires that both people pull their share of the work.

HAVE FUN AND BE EXCITED ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING. KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE ARE PROBABLY A LARGE NUMBER OF OSHKOSH PEOPLE WATCHING. THIS IS THE ONLY TELEVISION NEWSCAST THAT COVERS OSHKOSH, AND IT AIRS ON OUR CHANNEL 66 AND OSHKOSH PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 2.

