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JRNL 352.01: Intermediate Video Reporting and Producing

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JRNL 352-01 – CRN 31441- Intermediate Video Reporting and Producing

Syllabus – Spring 2015 (subject to change)

Scope:

JRNL 352 is an intensive intermediate reporting and producing course concentrating on video reporting, newscast producing and anchoring. Students will advance their video photography, editing, script writing and rundown building skills. All assignments will be based on journalistic writing and ethical decision-making. Students will learn teamwork skills by working with their counterparts in JRNL 351 to produce newscasts from beginning to end.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, successful JRNL 352 students will demonstrate:

- Strong news judgment
- Ability to identify various issues and angles in potential news stories
- Ability to write strong leads, bodies and conclusions to television news stories
- Strong writing skills including the use of active voice, writing to video, clear and concise use of language
- Television anchoring skills
- Interviewing skills including research and writing questions, interpersonal communication, proper questioning and listening
- Development of performance skills including newscast anchoring, weather, sports and field reporting
- Ability to identify quality in their own and other's work self and make newscast choices that reflect that ability
- Television newscast producing skills including building strong leads, writing for story flow, writing for pace and creating an overall look and feel of a program through writing and production values
- Proficiency in the technical requirements of television work including shooting and editing video, script writing using iNews, rundown building in iNews and use of the server to store and playback stories
- Understanding of journalism ethics, codes and the law covering journalistic endeavors

Pre-requisite: JRNL 350 (Instructor may allow JRNL 350 as co-requisite.)

Class meets:

• Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:10 to 4:00 in DAH 101, 114 and the television studio.

Instructor:

- Denise Dowling, Associate Professor, School of Journalism.
- Office: Don Anderson Hall 425
- Office hours: 11-12 MTWR and other times by appointment. Office phone: 406-243-4143.
- E-mail: denise.dowling@umontana.edu.

Grading:

Grades will be based on:

- Ideas and research
- Class attendance and participation
- Writing
- Reporting, writing and producing assignments
- Contribution to the overall success of the class
- Ability to work with your classmates

Grading Breakdown:

Newscasts (Producing and writing): 45%

- 8:00 News 10%
- 12:00 News 15%
- 16:00 News 25%

News Packages (3) / reporting and writing: 45%

- Court package
- Event package
- Issue package

Attendance/Teamwork: 10%

(You will receive no credit for packages that fail to meet the deadlines.)

Attendance:

 Class attendance is mandatory. You can't succeed if you miss critique sessions, lectures and labs. University business and documented illness are the only acceptable excuses. You must notify me in advance if you will be absent.

Two unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one letter. You will fail the class if you have a third unexcused absence.

Required Materials:

• You will need a hard drive compatible with the Radio-Television Department's system to store video.

Same Work for Multiple Classes in J-School:

• You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously or will be concurrently submitted for another class unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. You may not submit work you've done for any television station in an internship or paid position. To do so without permission will result in an "F" for the assignment and could result in an "F" for the course.

Diversity Initiative:

• The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. You will need to integrate diversity coverage into at least one assignment. We will discuss this during the preparation for the assignment.

Academic Honesty:

• I expect your honesty in presenting your own work for this course. Academic misconduct at The University of Montana is subject to an academic penalty ranging from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university. Students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

Plagiarism:

 As defined by "The University of Montana Student Conduct Code" plagiarism is: "Representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own." This is strictly prohibited in this class and any case of plagiarism in this course will be subject to the penalties outlined in the student code of conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

• This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website.

Access:

• For after-hours access to Don Anderson Hall, you will be able to enter the building and DAH 101 using the Griz Card swipe. You will also be given a key code for the door to DAH 114 and the radio studios in DAH 307-311.

JRNL 352-Intermediate Video Reporting & Producing Class-by-Class Topics and Assignments SUBJECT TO CHANGE-CRN 31441

Tuesday, 1/27/2015

- Course Overview
- Introduction to iNews, story forms
- Writing exercise: reader, vosb
- Story assignment overview & discussion
- Assignment-View local news "A-block" & recreate in iNews
- Assignment-Create questions for Thursday interviews

Thursday, 1/29

- Review "A-block" recreations
- Camera review
- Field exercise: Broll and interviews shot during class time (in pairs)
- Assignment: Write and edit vosb from field exercise

Tuesday, 2/3

- Review and re-write vosbs from field exercise
- Review video edits from field exercise and re-edit.
- Bringing diversity to your storytelling
- Uploading video to Thunder

Thursday, 2/5

• Anchor vosbs/crew training

Tuesday, 2/10

- Story meeting for Package #1
- Building a package
- Choosing diverse voices for interviews
- Interview techniques
- Assignment-Shoot, write and edit story #1

Thursday, 2/12

- Review
- Numeracy in news gathering & storytelling
- Assignment-Shoot and write story #1

Tuesday, 2/17

- Producing a newscast
- Due-First draft scripts for story #1, reviewed and returned

• Assignment-Edit story #1 package, vosb, vo

Thursday, 2/19

- Producing a newscast
- Assignment: Create 2:30 newscast from student vosbs, readers. Single anchor, no commercial break. Edit story #1 package, vosb, vo.

Tuesday, 2/24

- Produce and live anchor 2:30 newscast
- Review 2:30 newscast producing & anchoring
- Covering the courts
- Due: Story #1, Package, vosb, vo scripts and video

Thursday, 2/26

- Field trip-Missoula County District Court
- Story meeting/Story #2 assignment given
- 8:00 newscast assignment given. (One anchor, live reporter, 1:00 break)
- Assignment: Shoot and write Story #2. Produce 8:00 newscast.

Tuesday, 3/3

- View and critique Story #1
- Producing the 8:00 newscast
- Assignment: Shoot and write Story #2. Produce 8:00 newscast.

Thursday, 3/5

- Producing the 8:00 newscast
- Individual rundown reviews
- Scripts/rundowns to directors
- Assignment: Shoot and write Story #2. Produce 8:00 newscast.

Tuesday, 3/10

- 8:00 Newscast Lab I
- Review and re-do
- Due: Scripts for Story #2

Thursday, 3/12

- 8:00 Newscast Lab II
- Review and re-do
- Returned: Scripts for Story #2
- Assignment: Edit Story #2

Tuesday, 3/17

- Sports and weather anchoring/producing
- Review Story #2 in class
- Due: Story #2 package, vosb, vo

• 12:00 Newscast assignment given (Two anchors, weather, sports, live reporter, one break)

Thursday, 3/19

- Producing the 12:00 newscast
- Assignment: Produce 12:00 newscast

Tuesday, 3/24

- Producing the 12:00 newscast
- Story meeting/assignments for Story #3
- Assignment: Produce 12:00 newscast

Thursday, 3/26

- Producing the 12:00 newscast
- Individual rundown/script reviews
- Rundowns and scripts to director
- Breaking News day assignment given

Tuesday, 3/31

No Class Spring Break

Thursday, 4/2

No Class Spring Break

Tuesday, 4/7

- 12:00 newscast lab
- Assignment-Work on Story #3

Thursday, 4/9-High School Journalism Day

- Breaking News Day
- Assignment-Work on Story #3

Tuesday, 4/14

- 12:00 newscast lab
- Due: Scripts for Story #3

Thursday, 4/16

- Review 12:00 newscasts
- Producing the 16:00 newscast (Two anchors, weather, sports, live reporter, two breaks)
- Story #3 scripts returned
- Assignment: Produce 16:00 Newscast, work on Story #3

Tuesday, 4/21

• Review Story #3

- Produce 16:00 Newscast
- Due: Story #3 package, vosb, vo

Thursday, 4/23

- Produce 16:00 Newscast
- Individual rundown/script review
- Packets to directors by Monday
- Due: Rundowns and scripts to directors *Monday

Tuesday, 4/28

• 16:00 Newscast Lab I

Thursday, 4/30

• Review 16:00 Newscast I

Tuesday, 5/5

• 16:00 Newscast Lab II

Thursday, 5/7

- Review 16:00 Newscast II
- Prepare for variety show involvement

FINALS WEEK May 11-15

- *Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 14 from 1:10-3:10pm
 - Assignment: Crew, talent or audience for Variety Show produced by JRNL 351