

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025

Fall 9-1-2022

JRNL 340.01: Intermediate Audio

Denise J. Dowling

University of Montana, Missoula, denise.dowling@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi2021-2025>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Dowling, Denise J., "JRNL 340.01: Intermediate Audio" (2022). *University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025*. 1472.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi2021-2025/1472>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi, 2021-2025 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

INTERMEDIATE AUDIO-FALL 2022

JRNL 340-Section 1-CRN 70639

****Syllabus-Subject to Change****

****See separate document with COVID-19 related policies and procedures.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course builds on your introductory audio experience and works toward professional-quality reporting and storytelling with sound. We will work closely with KBGA College Radio this semester to create and produce a 5pm live broadcast including news and interview segments. You will be the reporters, writers, producers and anchors of these shows. You will be required to write/anchor one newscast and interview/host one segment each month live at 5pm over the course of the semester. The story assignments you complete for class are intended to be used in these broadcasts. You will work closely with KBGA staff to come up with a format and style for the program. I encourage you to think about the audience and come up with a program you think will keep listeners. In case you haven't listened in--**KBGA 89.9fm or kbga.org.**

You will also produce two radio news packages and one final documentary or feature piece, with the primary focus being audio. One of your produced pieces will require you to work specifically on an equity/inclusion/diversity issue or to report on/from a diverse community. Good reporters need a variety of perspectives in all their reporting and this will force you to get out of your bubble.

The course focus will be on WRITING because writing is what makes audio stories great, no matter what sound you've recorded. I'll expect you to write clearly and conversationally. You will be required to re-write stories and scripts until they meet professional standards and are ready for air. You'll need to get out in the field and get comfortable talking with total strangers. You'll need to work to get great natural sound and use it effectively in your storytelling.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester the successful JRNL 340 student will:

- Demonstrate sound news judgment and find strong story ideas.
- Understand the unique quality and importance of radio writing and be able to draft solid scripts.
- Become proficient in gathering and editing audio.
- Improve voicing techniques.
- Produce several types of multitrack pieces that blend creativity and the rigors of good journalism.
- Complete all that's required to submit pieces for this class to air on KBGA and be submitted to other outside outlets.
- Critically listen to radio news and features from a variety of sources, including stations, national shows and podcasts.
- Meet deadlines.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR UPPER DIVISION WRITING

These are the learning outcomes for this upper division writing course:

- Identify and pursue sophisticated questions for academic inquiry.
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources.
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate.
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline.
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work.
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to journalism.
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Students in good standing as Journalism majors are expected to know the basics of gathering sound and writing for radio. You should be familiar with Audacity audio editing software and be able to learn Adobe Audition. You will be required to host and anchor live broadcasts and follow FCC rules governing on-air behavior.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- AA batteries
- A good set of headphones, preferably “cans” and not ear buds
- Sanitizing wipes, gloves, saran wrap or condoms (We will go through equipment COVID procedures separately.)

EQUIPMENT ON LOAN

****See separate document with COVID-19 related policies and procedures.**

The J-school is loaning professional-quality audio kits to this class for the semester, which you will not share. That means you do not have to go through checkout. It also means you remain responsible for your kit. If it's damaged or lost, you will have to replace it. A complete kit is \$1,000. You'll be signing checkout forms that will be kept on file by me and you must return all equipment in working order on a date TBA.

ABOUT MOODLE/UM ONLINE

All reading, listening and production assignments and deadlines will be posted on the class Moodle page, which can be accessed by entering a Net ID at moodle.umt.edu.

TEXTBOOK AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

There's no required text for this class. But there will be required readings via handouts and links on Moodle.

LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTICIPATION

We'll do a lot of listening and talking about what we hear during class, but you'll also need to listen to pieces outside of class and come prepared to talk about them. You may also be asked to share audio stories with the class and should be prepared to lead discussions about them.

PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS

All final mixes (mp3) and story scripts (Word) need to be uploaded to Moodle by the deadline. Deadlines are at 5pm on the date indicated. **Due dates may change and will be finalized in class and posted to Moodle.** In most circumstances, a failure to meet deadlines will result in a failing grade.

Assignments and grading breakdown: (See Major assignments document for more information)

Voxpops

Points: 50

KBGA Newscasts & Interviews

Points: 300

Class Participation

Points: 50

News Story I

Points: 150

News Story II

Points: 150

Documentary/Final Project

Points: 300

GRADING

Letter grades will not be used except as the final grade (per requirement). The equivalents are as follows:

A: 93-100
A-: 90-92
B+: 87-89
B: 83-86
B-: 80-82
C+: 77-79
C: 73-76
C-: 70-72
D+: 67-69
D: 63-66
D-: 60-62
F: 59 or lower

ATTENDANCE

I expect you to be in every class. If you must miss class because you are *really* sick, notify me at least an hour before class via email. Talk to me if you have a situation or University business, but talk to me **BEFORE** you miss class. You may not miss class to conduct work for this class or any other class or extra-curricular activity. If you have two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop by 10%. Three or more and you fail the class.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

****See separate document with COVID-19 related policies and procedures.**

Students with disabilities and/or special needs should notify the instructor at the student's earliest convenience and contact Disabilities Services for Students, umt.edu/dss/or x2243.

- Academic Misconduct and the **Student Conduct Code**: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the university. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php
- **DOUBLE-DIPPING**: No element (recordings, story ideas, scripts, etc.) for another class can fulfill assignments for this class without **DOCUMENTED ACCEPTANCE** from instructors of all involved courses. Failure to do so will result in failure of that assignment.
- **PLAGIARIASM and ETHICS**: Have pride in your work and banish the idea of turning in something written or recorded by someone else and presented as your own. Writing a script, asking someone to read your words and then pawning it off as legitimate journalism is also a big, fat no. Penalties range from failing this class to expulsion from school.
- If you are a JRNL graduate student OR non-freshman undergraduate student, your security code has already been generated for the semester and your GrizCard has already been activated to enter the front doors of DAH 24/7. You will have continual access (during the semester) to DAH until you graduate or are no longer enrolled in journalism courses. You will need your six-digit punch code to enter the audio studios. If you've forgotten it, see Marissa McClintock at the front desk.