

## **Jour 314 - Television News Reporting Spring 2008**

### **Instructor**

Justin Bannister

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Office Hours: By appointment

### **Lab Instructor**

Mylan Chavez

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Office Hours: By appointment

**Class:** Tues. 6:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Milton Hall 133

**Lab:** T,W,Th 10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

News 22 News Room

### **Required materials**

A textbook is not required for this class - so don't buy one.

You will need to read and be familiar with the Las Cruces Sun-News on a daily basis. You can buy a copy around campus or read the online version.

You will also need to buy two videocassettes. Please see your lab instructor, Mylan Chavez, for details.

### **Why are we here?**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the basic concepts of television news and prepare them for News 22 if they choose to participate in the department's student-run newscast. You'll learn to write and edit scripts, shoot and edit video, and other skills necessary to survive as a TV reporter.

### **Attendance**

I will make assignments during class that are due at the end of the class period. Unexcused absences will lead to missing assignments. Missing assignments will affect your grade (in a bad way).

We only meet once a week – so attendance is important. If you can't make it to class, let me know ahead of time. Makeup work will only be permitted for excused absences. Students have one week to complete makeup work.

Students with more than 3 unexcused absences will be dropped from the course.

Students who are absent for documented university business have an automatic right to excused absences and for makeup work.

### **Grades**

60 – Attendance/assignments	A = 225 point or more
30 – TV News Analysis	B = 200
60 – Lab	C = 175
<u>100</u> – Final Project	D = 150
250 – Total Points	F = 125

**Attendance/assignments** – Students will be given writing assignments during class and must show up with story ideas. These are worth 5 points a day.

**TV News Analysis** – Students will be responsible for completing one TV News Analysis due Mar. 4. Please follow guidelines at the end of this syllabus.

**Final Project** – For their final project, students will shoot, write and edit a television news package. Students will learn how to do this during the course.

**Lab** – Labs are where students will focus on the hands-on aspect of shooting, editing and other technical aspects of TV news reporting. Lab work will consist of in-class activities and quizzes. It is **very** important you are on time and do not miss a lab. Plan on spending hours outside of class time to work on video projects and shoot scheduled interviews.

### **Withdrawing**

Students who wish to withdraw from this class and take a “W” must do so before Mar. 10. If you are worried about your grade, please talk to me. I’ll let you know where you stand.

### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **Jan. 22**

**Topic** – Introduction. We will hand out the syllabus and talk about the class.

**Assignments** – Students must show up with two story ideas for next week’s class.

#### **Jan. 29**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – Writing for TV/writing leads.

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in lead paragraphs for four different news stories during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week’s class.

#### **Feb. 5**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – What are RDRs, VOs, VOSOTs, VBs and PKGs?

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in one RDR and one VO during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week’s class.

#### **Feb. 12**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – Interviews.

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in one VO and one VOSOT during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week’s class.

#### **Feb. 19**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – What makes for interesting news?

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in one VO and one VOSOT during class. *This VOSOT will correspond with a lab assignment.* Prepare for TV News Analysis.

**Feb. 26** – TV News Analysis

**Due** – Nothing, class will not formally meet today.

**Topic** – \*\*\*TV News Analysis\*\*\*

**Assignments** – Students will watch and break down a local newscast. This analysis will be handed in Mar. 4. Please follow instructions under TV News Analysis Section.

Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Mar. 4** –

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – Objectivity, attribution and libel law.

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn two VOSOTs during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Mar. 11**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – PKGs

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in a short PKG during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Mar. 18**

**Due** – Two story ideas. *Idea for final PKG is also due today.*

**Topic** – Stand ups

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in two VOSOTs during class. *One of these VOSOTs will correspond with a lab assignment.*

**Mar. 25** – Spring Break

**Due** – Nothing, it's Spring Break. Have fun!

**Topic** – \*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*

**Assignments** – Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Apr. 1**

**Due** – Two story ideas.

**Topic** – Live shots.

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in one LIVE VO and one LIVE VOSOT during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Apr. 8**

**Due** – Two story ideas. *Nearly all shooting for final PKG should be complete.*

**Topic** – Delivery

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in two VOSOTs during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week's class.

**Apr. 15**

**Due** – Two story ideas. *Students must turn in scripts for final PKG today.*

**Topic** – Producing and newscast structure

**Assignments** – Students will write and turn in a short PKG during class. Students must show up with two story ideas for next week’s class.

**Apr. 22**

**Due** – Two story ideas. *Students should be editing their PKGs by this time.*

**Topic** – Review of PKG status and any questions

**Assignments** – Show up next week with your PKG

**Apr. 29**

**Due** – **Final projects due (watch as a class)**

**Academic and Non-academic misconduct**

As defined in the NMSU student handbook, cheating and plagiarism are unethical and punishable. Collaborations are often necessary when putting together a news story, but simply copying another person’s work and other forms of cheating will not be accepted. Students who cheat will receive a zero for the assignment. I also reserve the right to expel students from class for disruptive behavior.

**Students with disabilities**

If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) located at Garcia Annex (phone 646-6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD during the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

**Incomplete Grades**

To qualify for an “I” grade, students must have demonstrated good progress (C- or better) at mid-semester and be unable to complete the course because of documented health or personal problems. Failure to submit assignments at the end of the semester does not qualify the student for an “I” grade.

**Final Examinations Week**

Your package will count as your final exam. We will work on the packages throughout the year. We will watch and critique packages during our last day of class – Apr. 29. All packages must be complete before class begins on Apr. 29.

## **TV News Analysis**

Students must watch one local newscast (either 30 or 60 minutes) and write a breakdown of its components. Important details should include:

Channel

Day, date and time

Anchors

What did you think about the anchors?

Lead story

How many stories did they do before the first commercial?

Number of live shots

Number of reporters

When did you first see the weathercaster?

How long was the main weather segment?

Did they have a sports segment?

What story did you find the most interesting?

What story did you find the least interesting?

Did you notice any mistakes? What were they?