

COURSE NUMBER AND SECTION: Journalism 414, Section 1
COURSE TITLE: Radio/TV Scriptwriting and Announcing
SEMESTER: Spring 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Bob Nosbisch

CONTACT INFORMATION: rnosbisc@nmsu.edu

COURSE MEETING TIME AND DAYS: Monday evenings, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

CLASS MEETING PLACE: Milton Hall, Room 133

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment only

TEXTBOOK: Broadcast News and Writing Stylebook, 3rd edition

Robert A. Papper

The textbook is required for this class.

(In the NMSU Bookstore, this textbook is listed under Journalism 313.)

DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE OF COURSE: This course is designed to give you practice in two areas critical to broadcast journalism: (1) writing effective news scripts and (2) delivering the news effectively. Because we have a lot of academic territory to cover, the first part of each class session will be devoted to discussing broadcast news writing. After a short break, the second part of each class session will be devoted to broadcast announcing and delivery.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY: Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. All absences must be documented before they will be considered excused. Each unexcused or undocumented absence will result in a loss of five points from your semester grade.

GRADES AND GRADING: Your semester grade will be determined by four factors: written assignments, voiced assignments, weekly quizzes over current events and reading assignments for that week, and a final exam. Written assignments will comprise 35 percent of your semester grade, voiced assignments will comprise 35 percent of your semester grade, quizzes will comprise 10 percent of your semester grade and the final exam will comprise 20 percent of your semester grade.

Written work will be graded on story flow, understandability, spelling, grammar, punctuation, proper usage of broadcast writing style rules, and more.

Voiced work will be graded on overall delivery, pacing, breath control, proper pronunciation, authoritativeness, tone and pitch, and more.

Current events quizzes will be based on big items in the news over the past week as well as a question or two from that day's reading assignment.

The final exam will be a two-part exam. The first part will test you over material we cover this semester. The second part will be a writing assignment.

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: The New Mexico State University student handbook defines academic misconduct. Cheating and plagiarism, which do not belong on a college campus, are unethical and punishable. If I suspect the student is cheating or plagiarizing, the incident/s will be documented and proper disciplinary actions will be pursued.

Also, I reserve the right to expel from class any student exhibiting disruptive behavior. This encompasses a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, interrupting another student's right to learn or disrespecting other students or the instructor.

MAKEUP WORK: You will be allowed to make up missing assignments only in cases of excused, documented absences. I will keep a record of all documented absences.

EXTRA CREDIT: No extra credit will be given in this class.

GRADES AT MIDTERM: You will have graded material that will determine your standing in this course prior to the mid-semester deadline for dropping a course with a "W." If you are not making sufficient progress in this course at midterm, you will be required to meet with me so we can address problem areas and take corrective action.

INCOMPLETE GRADES: To qualify for an "I" grade, you must have demonstrated good progress (C- or better) at mid-semester and must 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: This department observes the final examinations week schedule. Our final exam will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2008.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you 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 I receive a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD during the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either the SSD representative or me in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs. I am prepared to accommodate all students with disabilities and to work with the SSD to bring facilities to the use of such students.

FINAL NOTES:

1. With the exception of the first reading assignment, all reading assignments must be completed before class. I reserve the right to give the class a pop quiz at any time if I feel students are not keeping up with the reading assignments.
2. Please deal with your personal life on your own time, not on my time. This means refrain from using cell phones, Ipods, text messaging, email, YouTube, MySpace, FaceBook, etc., in this class. Turn off your cell phones, beepers, pagers, etc., before class begins and leave them off during class. Violations of these rules will affect your semester grade.
3. I will try to stay with this schedule as much as possible. However, I reserve the right to change the schedule without notice. The only exception is the final exam.

ASSIGNMENT AND TOPIC SCHEDULE:

Week 1 (Jan. 21) – No class; Martin Luther King holiday

Week 2 (Jan. 28) – Introduction to the class; News (Chapter 1)

Week 3 (Feb. 4) – Readability; Words; Phrases and Phrasing (Chapters 2-4); *Announcing techniques*

Week 4 (Feb. 11) – Sentences; Leads and Endings (Chapters 5-6); *Marking copy*

Week 5 (Feb. 18) – Stories; Working with and Gathering Bites, Actualities and Natural Sound (Chapters 7-8); *Breathing I*

Week 6 (Feb. 25) – Interviewing; Radio: Story Forms and Working with Sound (Chapters 9-10); *Breathing II*

Week 7 (March 3) – TV: Story Forms; TV: Working with Pictures; TV Script Form and Supers (Chapters 11, 12, and 29); *Phonation I*

Week 8 (March 10) – Caring and Connecting; Story Ideas and the Assignment Desk; Producing News on TV; Glossary (Chapters 13-15 and Glossary); *Phonation II*

Week 9 (March 17) – Teases and Promos; Convergence and Online News; Ethics and the RTNDA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (Chapters 16-18); *Resonance I*

Week 10 (March 24) – No class; Spring Break

Week 11 (March 31) – Business, Taxes and the Economy; Calendar; Crime and Legal; Education (Chapters 19-22); *Resonance II*

Week 12 (April 7) – Geography; Government; Health and Medicine; Space and Aviation (Chapters 23-26); *Articulation I*

Week 13 (April 14) – Sports; Weather and Natural Phenomena (Chapters 27-28); *Articulation II*

Week 14 (April 21) – To be announced

Week 15 (April 28) – Review for final exam

Week 16 (May 5) – FINAL EXAM – 6 P.M.