

**Journalism 445: Advanced Television News**  
**Fall 2009**  
**Monday, 2 p.m.-4:45 p.m.**

**Office and Hours**

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**Monday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., MZ 332**

**Wednesday, noon-1 p.m.**

**Technical Supervisors: Lincoln Harrison, Blasco Felipe. Ext. 4989**

**Course Purpose:** The course is designed for outstanding students, who have progressed through the Journalism Department's broadcast emphasis. Over the semester, students will produce weekly half-hour newscasts, which will air on three cable channels serving the San Fernando Valley. **This is possible because of cable's strong support of our newscasts, and student commitment is vital in maintaining the relationship.**

Students will be assigned jobs in the newscast, and will rotate about every three weeks. The jobs include: producer, associate producer, copy editor, CNN Newsource coordinator, writers, reporters, and anchors.

**The Newscast:** The news content will come from the area served by the cable companies airing the newscast. It is reported, shot, edited, written, produced and anchored by students under guidance of the instructor. The stories include breaking-news, mini-docs, in-depth reports, investigative journalism and live in-studio interviews.

The newscasts are videotaped at **5:00 p.m.**, Thursday following a rehearsal program. After taping, the newscast will be replayed in the studio for class critique and discussion. **Attendance is mandatory every Thursday, for the critique/discussion.** Your final grade will be lowered one grade for each class you miss.

**Other Instruction:** Students will also learn the latest developments in the field of broadcast journalism, with an on-going emphasis on ethics.

**Faculty Advisor:** All story ideas for reporter packages must be approved by the faculty advisor before shooting can begin. All reporter scripts must be read and cleared by the advisor before editing. During the newscast production, the rundowns and copy must be cleared as well. **If you do not adhere to the guidelines, your package will not be aired and you will not receive credit for the work.** Each student is required to produce at least three packages.

**Evaluation:** Each student will be expected to perform each of the jobs needed to produce the newscasts. Writing and reporting will be evaluated on accuracy, fairness, completeness of story, clarity, conversational style, and speed. Shooting and editing will be judged on their fitness for air. Planning and producing will be evaluated as follows: how well the newscast reports meaningful news for the San Fernando Valley viewing area., how well the staff works together, whether the newscast is aired on time, and whether it meets the same standards as professional newscasts airing on commercial stations. The final grade will reflect all of the above.

**Note:** Journalism majors and faculty this semester will be part of a “reading community”, centered on *Shaking the Foundation: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America*, edited by Bruce Shapiro. All students are required to read the book, and when applicable, it will be incorporated in the lessons of this course. Be prepared for class discussions, assignments and quizzes based on the book.

**Cheating:** The Journalism Department at California State University, Northridge is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will be reported to the administration and will receive a failing grade in this class. For a further explanation of the behavior defined as cheating, please consult pages 587-588 of the 2008-2010 CSUN catalog.

Please remember that much of the information posted on the Internet is protected by U.S. copyright laws. Passing this information off as your own is a violation of CSUN’s plagiarism policy, and carries the penalties outlined above.

Students in this course are strongly encouraged to broaden their journalistic experiences, with the instructor’s help, by including in their work people and subjects such as ethnic, racial and religious minorities, the elderly, disabled and poor, gay men and lesbians, and other similar groups. The intent is to ensure that student work reflects the diversity of the community.

### **Schedule (Pending approval of furlough days for faculty)**

**Week 1:** Introduction to the course. Duties will be assigned. Review of newscast elements and fundamental writing skills.

**Week 2:** Individual duties will be outlined. Review of videotape shooting and editing skills. Practice and writing review. Prepare for next week's dry run.

**Week 3:** Make assignments for the dry run. Report, edit and write news stories for today. Produce a dry run newscast on actual deadline in Journalism Department studio. Critique and discuss videotape of dry run newscast.

**Week 4:** Report, edit, write, and produce dress rehearsal newscast for tape at 5:00 p.m. Critique and discuss videotape of the rehearsal. Plan and assign feature stories and live interview segment for next week.

**Week 5:** Report, edit, and write news stories for today. Produce first newscast for taping. Critique and discuss videotape of the newscast. Plan elements for next week.

**Week 6:** Same

**Week 7:** Same.

**Week 8:** Same

**Week 9:** Same

**Week 10:** Same.

**Week 11:** Same.

**Week 12:** Same.

**Week 13:** Same.

**Week 14:** Same.

**Week 15:** Critique, discuss, and summarize the semester's experience.

**Week 16:** Open

