

JOURNALISM 415: TELEVISION NEWS
SPRING 2014 MARKS
MONDAY 9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

OFFICE AND HOURS:

Monday 12:30–2:20 p.m. MZ 328

Tuesday 1:30–2:30 p.m. MZ 328

TELEPHONE:

(818)701–9337 (home)

(818)677–2016 (office)

This class introduces the student to TV news field reporting through lecture, text and hands-on experience in class, in the field and in the studio. Basic goal is to be able to shoot, write, report, edit and produce a TV story.

Students will be divided into two teams. Beginning the 5th week of the semester, students in each team will produce news packages on a rotating weekly basis. Each student will produce four news stories during the semester.

While this class, J415, will not be directly related to the Monday Valley View class, exceptional material produced here will be aired on the VV newscast. Every effort will be made to bring the two groups closer together toward the end of the semester, but that will depend on class progress.

The Department requires that students provide proof that the lab fee has been paid.

Lincoln Harrison (ext. 4989) is the teaching technical supervisor assigned to the course and he is responsible for all equipment and labs. Do not consult him on decisions or problems related to the journalistic aspect of the course.

There will be heavy emphasis on TV news **writing** as well as production and students will be required to learn **both** in order to get a passing grade.

It is required that students watch TV news and read appropriate magazines, newspapers and texts. These materials and their relationship to the subject of journalistic ethics will be discussed during the semester.

GRADES:

75% of the grade will be determined by the four news packages produced by each student. That grade will be based on choice of subject, research, outline, writing, shooting, editing, producing and—to a far lesser extent—on-air ability.

Two other major areas will contribute equally to the other 25% of the final grade:

1. Contribution and attitude toward the class determined by the result and evaluations from instructor, technical supervisor and producer.
2. Attendance and Class participation during critique sessions.

No electronic devices are permitted in the class. Cellphones and other personal electronic devices are prohibited. Violation of this prohibition will result in the lowering of your semester grade by half a point for each offense. Keep those devices out of sight. Also, computers are for classroom projects, not for personal use.

Course grades may include plus or minus. Each assignment and the overall result will be graded on the following scale:

10	=	Your work is professional, outstanding.	A
9	=	Your work is professional.	A–
8	=	With minor changes could be professional.	B
7	=	With several minor changes, could be professional.	B–
6	=	With major changes, could be professional.	C
5	=	With several major changes, could be professional.	C–
4	=	Your work has fundamental problems.	D
3	=	Your work has many fundamental problems.	D–
2	=	Your work is not fit for broadcast.	F
1	=	Work not turned in as required.	F

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, and anyone caught cheating will be reported to the University and receive a failing grade. For a further explanation of the behavior defined as academic dishonesty, and a more detailed discussion of disciplinary procedures, please consult pages 647–648 of the 2012–2014 CSUN catalog.

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Please also 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.

TEXT:

Strunk & White, *The Elements of Style*

SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1:

Introduction to course. Hands-on experience producing news package. Briefing on Journalism Department equipment. Orientation with Harrison on studio and portable equipment.

ASSIGNMENT: Write script. Develop story ideas.

WEEK 2:

Read scripts. Edit stories using student scripts. Review story ideas.

ASSIGNMENT: Rewrite scripts for week 3.

WEEK 3:

Divide into teams. Discuss story ideas. Study news packages. Scripts due.

ASSIGNMENT: Story research and outline due week 4.

WEEK 4:

Study structure of news packages and newscasts. Approve news package outlines.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot & edit news packages. Team number one news packages due week 5.

WEEK 5:

View and critique team number one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number two news packages due week 6.

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WEEK 6:

View and critique team number two news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number one produces second packages.

WEEK 7:

View and critique team number one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number two produces second packages.

WEEK 8:

View and critique team number two news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number one produces third packages.

WEEK 9:

Discussion on producing.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number one produces third packages.

WEEK 10:

View and critique team number one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number two produces third packages.

WEEK 11:

View and critique team number two news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number one produces fourth packages.

WEEK 12:

View and critique team number one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Team number two produces fourth packages.

WEEK 13:

View and critique team number two news packages.

WEEK 14:

Critique and discussion of news packages.

WEEK 15:

Critique and discussion of news packages.

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT MISSION:

The Journalism Department strives to prepare students to become well-educated, principled citizens capable of initiating careers as skilled journalists, public relations practitioners and other related communication professionals. The Dept. will help students to achieve the following objectives by the end of their program of studies:

PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to report and write for diverse publics, using proper grammar and punctuation, word usage and spelling, sentence and storytelling structures across multiple journalistic formats.
2. Students will be able to gather and analyze information, including basic numerical concepts, using reporting techniques, such as interviewing, observation, and researching primary and secondary sources.
3. Students will be able to think critically, creatively and independently.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness, and diversity.
5. Students will apply tools and technologies appropriate for the news media professions in which they work to communicate for and with diverse publics.
6. Students will be able to understand and apply the historical, theoretical, legal and societal contexts for producing and consuming news media for consumers, ranging from local to global publics.