

Journalism 415, Television News
Fall 2013 Kasparian
Monday 12:00P.M - 3:15P.M

Office Hours:

Mondays 11A.M – 12P.M

MZ 213

Contact:

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PREREQUISITE:

Grade of “C” or better in JOUR 315 and 325. Reporting, writing, editing and producing for television news. Fundamentals of television news field reporting, writing, researching, interviewing and editing complete narrative packages. 6 hours of classroom and lab activity.

COURSE INTRODUCTION:

This key class introduces and instructs students on the basic ins and outs of writing, producing, shooting, and editing of news packages for a television news show. The class will also emphasize the importance of **topic selection** for news stories and news casts. Lab work and hands-on experience is required for this class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

We will begin every class with a “production meeting,” similar to what you would expect in a real newsroom. After a few weeks of instruction on the fundamentals of a successful news package, the class will be divided into two groups. Each group will rotate each week to present a news package to the rest of the class for critique. Each student is required to present four packages throughout the semester. The number of packages is subject to change based on the class’ progress. Each student is also required to participate in critiquing the packages produced by their peers.

You will learn how:

- to choose relevant and timely topics.
- to report factual information about your story.
- to shoot B ROLL and footage.
- to write an interesting and informative script.
- to conduct interviews and standups.
- to edit footage on Final Cut.
- to combine all elements for a professional news package.
- to create an online profile of your work (through YouTube) in an effort to get acquainted with new media.

NEW MEDIA COMPONENT:

The web has revolutionized news and the way people consume information. My profession as a host/reporter of The Young Turks revolves around new media and an online presence. There are differences between new media and traditional media that will be highlighted throughout the semester. It's important that you're fully educated and acquainted with both. In an effort to provide hands on experience with new media, each student is required to create their own YouTube channel. You will upload at least one of your news packages to your channel. I will walk through creating the channel, uploading your video, and tagging and titling your work. We will also discuss the profitability of creating a YouTube channel and how some entertainers and reporters earn their entire living by creating digital content.

PRODUCTION MEETINGS:

Following news and current events is a very important aspect of this class. Students will be required to watch TV news, and credible online programs, and read print publications. These materials and their relationship to journalistic ethics will be discussed at the beginning of every class during our production meetings.

Students are expected to know what the big news stories of the day consist of, and we will have a 30-minute "production meeting" at the beginning of every class to simulate what happens in a real newsroom. **The topics discussed during the mock production meetings do not have to be the topics you choose for your packages.** There is a wide variety of sources you can turn to if you're looking to find the big news stories of the day. The following list includes a few that you can keep in mind. Please remember this is a limited list. There are other sources that you can consider. We will discuss the credibility of news sources in detail during the class.

TELEVISION:

CNN

CSPAN

ABC (Local)

NBC (Local)

CBS (Local)

FOX (Local)

For the purposes of this class, I would like you to stay away from FOX News and MSNBC. We will discuss media bias and its relation to these two networks.

ONLINE/PRINT:

News.google.com

HuffingtonPost.com (Make sure you're not reading a **blog** but a **news story**)

NYTimes.com

WallStreetJournal.com

LATimes.com

DailyNews.com

Bloomberg.com

Salon.com

ThingProgress.com
Alternet.org
YouTube.com/TheYoungTurks
TheDailyBeast.com
RollingStone.com
TheGuardian.com

RADIO:

NPR
KCRW
KNX 1070

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

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

ALL ELEMENTS OF THIS CLASS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON GUEST SPEAKERS, UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND CLASS PROGRESS. PENDING SCHEDULES AND STAFF, A FIELD TRIP IS PLANNED TO OBSERVE THE YOUNG TURKS PRODUCTION AND SHOW.

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 Department will help students to achieve the following objectives by the end of their program studies:

Journalism Program Mission:

The Department of Journalism strives to prepare its students to become well-educated, principled citizens who are capable of initiating careers as skilled journalists, public relations practitioners and other related communication professionals.

Program 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.

GRADES:

75% of the grade will be determined by the four news packages produced by each student. The grade will be based on topic choice, research, accuracy, writing, shooting, editing, and to a lesser extent, comfort on camera.

25% of the grade will be determined by classroom participation and attendance. Participating in the 30-minute production meetings and the critiques of news packages is extremely important. If you fail at this part of the class, the highest grade you can get (assuming that your packages are perfect) is a C, so please keep that in mind. I do not like students coming in and out of the classroom. It is distracting and rude, so please show up on time, and do not leave early unless you speak to me about your reason for leaving early before the class.

The following scale explains how your work will be graded. Course grades may include a plus or minus. When creating packages, you want to think about producing something good enough to appear on a newscast.

A = Your work is professional, outstanding, and needs no changes.

A- = Your work is professional, with no more than one minor change needed.

B = With minor changes, work will be professional enough to air.

B- = Several minor changes needed before package is professional enough to air.

C = With major changes, work will be professional enough to air.

C- = With several major changes, work will be professional enough to air.

D = Your work has some fundamental problems.

D- = Your work has several fundamental problems.

Cell phones must be out of sight, out of mind. I don't want them on your desk on silent. I want them OFF and in your bags. Violation of this very strict rule will result in the lowering of your semester grade by half a point for

each offense. Please keep in mind that while class meets in MZ 213, you will also do a bulk of your work for packages in MZ 150. We will discuss this in class. [Computers are for classroom projects, not for personal use. If you get caught using the computers for email, social media, or online shopping, your grade will suffer half a point for each offense.](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It should be common knowledge that cheating and plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated in my class, or any other class at CSUN. The Journalism Department of California State University, Northridge, is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and integrity. Anyone caught cheating will be reported to the University and receive a failing grade. For further explanation of the behavior defined as academic dishonesty, and more detailed discussion of disciplinary procedures, please consult pages 647-648 of the 2010-2014 CSUN catalog..

Please also remember that much of the information posted on the Internet is protected by U.S. copyright laws. Passing copyrighted information off as your own is a violation of CSUN's plagiarism policy, and carries the penalties outlined above. We will discuss fair use laws in class so you know when it's appropriate to use someone else's videos in your news packages.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY:

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 student work reflects the diversity of the community.

TEXTS:

We will learn how broadcast news writing differs from print journalism. In order to do so, please refer to: Strunk and White, Elements of Style

Also, this short PDF that summarizes the basics of broadcast news writing:

http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/dl/free/007351196x/829738/tug1196X_ch01_001_016.pdf

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: August 26th

Introduction to the course. Let's all get to know each other. Hands-on experience producing news package. Briefing on Journalism Department equipment. Orientation with Lincoln Harrison on studio and portable equipment.

ASSIGNMENT: Read up on the news to pitch story ideas for our production meeting two weeks from now. Write a script and develop story ideas.

WEEK 2: September 2nd

CAMPUS CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

WEEK 3: September 9th

Class begins with a production meeting.

Each student reads his or her script. Class works together to edit each script. Students present story ideas for their own news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Rewrite scripts using critiques.

WEEK 4: September 16th

Class begins with a production meeting.

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

ASSIGNMENT: Story research, outline, and script for your first package.

WEEK 5: September 23rd

Class begins with a production meeting.

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

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #1 packages due next week.

WEEK 6: September 30th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team one's news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #2 packages due next week.

WEEK 7: October 7th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team two's news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #1 packages due next week.

WEEK 8: October 14th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #2 packages due next week.

WEEK 9: October 21st

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team two's news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #1 packages due next week.

WEEK 10: October 28th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #2 packages due next week.

WEEK 11: November 4th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team two's news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #1 packages due next week.

WEEK 12: November 11th

CAMPUS CLOSED FOR VETERAN'S DAY

WEEK 13: November 18th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team one news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: Shoot and edit news packages. Team #2 packages due next week.

WEEK 14: November 25th

Class begins with a production meeting.

View and critique team two's news packages.

ASSIGNMENT: All students must watch a newscast and write a paper that is critical of the way the story was reported. What was the story about? How would have reported the story differently? Was the topic worth doing a package on? Why or why not?

WEEK 15: December 2nd

Group one visits TYT (TBD).

WEEK 16: December 9th

Group two visits TYT (TBD).

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

The point of this class is to get you prepared to create professional packages, and understand what the atmosphere is like in a real newsroom. My goal is to make you skeptics of what you see reported on a regular basis. The only way to become a quality journalist is to analyze, question, and investigate. We will do that in our production meetings, packages and critiques. Hopefully you will take that knowledge and thought process with you to the field when you graduate.