

INTRODUCTION TO RADIO, TV & FILM WRITING
MRTS 2010.002 – Fall 2016
Department of Media Arts

Class Information

Location – RTVP Building room 282

Time – M/W 2:00-3:20

Text – None. Online readings and links provided in Blackboard

Instructor – Johnathan Paul

Office – 224

Office Hours – M: 12:00-2pm, W: 12:00-2pm

Email – johnathan.paul@unt.edu

Phone – RTVF Office (messages only) 940-565-2537

COURSE DESCRIPTION

RTVF 2010 offers an introduction to scriptwriting for a variety of media, including commercials, PSA's, broadcast promos, narrative TV, documentary and narrative film. The art of "visual writing" is emphasized. Students produce a variety of scripts on their own, and collaboration is stressed through the work-shopping of scripts in class.

COURSE GOALS

- To become familiar with a broad field of media writing
- To learn to write visually
- To learn how to write scripts in the format appropriate to the medium (two-column scripts, screenplays, radio scripts, etc).
- To write within production constraints and to address client needs

COURSE BASICS

Structure – lecture, class discussion, demonstrations, viewing of television news and other videos, critiques of professional and personal work.

Attendance – this is an interactive class and your attendance and participation in discussions are expected. Absences will be tracked. Two absences will be allowed without explanation, but any afterwards will result in a loss of letter grade per absence.

Use of electronics – phones, laptops and tablets are allowed in class but must be used responsibly and with respect for your classmates and instructor.

Assignments – All assignments are due in Blackboard by the end-of-day on the due date (meaning 11:59pm on the due date) unless otherwise stated in the assignment. All written work must be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins on all sides. All outside information must be properly cited. No

handwritten assignment will be accepted. If you are unable to upload your assignments to Blackboard, you may try emailing it to me or printing a copy and bringing it to class BEFORE the deadline.

Late Work - you are allowed TWO late assignments, graded at 80% of the total points. That means a 20 point project that is turned in late is only worth a maximum of 16 points.

RTVF 2010 Writing for Radio-TV-Film

COURSE SCHEDULE
FALL 2016

Course Schedule subject to change. Changes will always be announced in class and updated on the schedule in **RED**.

Week 1 – August 29 & August 31

Topic – Course Overview, Projects Overview

Action Items – find packages and send me a link for Wednesday's class

Week 2 – Sept 5 (No Class) & 7

Topic – Packages – short format, news

Assignment – Package writing from print – due Sept 15 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 3 – Sept 12 & 14

Topic – Packages cont. – interviewing

Assignment – Original package – due Sept 22 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 4 – Sept 19 & 21

Topic – Promos – topical

Assignment – In-depth Interview Package – due Sept 29 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 5 – Sept 26 & 28

Topic – Promos – sweeps/promotables

Action Items – Promo Writing in class worth 25 points

Assignment – Promo Writing – due Oct 6 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 6 – Oct 3 & 5

Topic – Commercials

Assignment – Commercial Writing Assignment – due Oct 13 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 7 – Oct 10 & 12

Topic – Documentaries

Week 8 – Oct 17 & 19

Topic – Documentaries (Proposal / Treatment)

Assignment – Short Doc Writing Assignment – due Nov 3 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 9 – Oct 24 & 26

Topic – Documentaries (Shooting Script)

Assignment – Short Doc Writing Assignment – due Nov 3 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page).

Week 10 – Oct 31 & Nov 2

Topic – Radio

Assignment – Radio Writing Assignment – due Nov 10 in Blackboard dropbox

Week 11 – Nov 7 & 9

Topic – Narrative – formatting, examples

Action Items – brainstorm narrative story ideas

Week 12- Nov 14 & 16

Topic – Narrative Film & TV

Assignment – Narrative Scene Writing assignment – due Dec 1 in Blackboard (submit on assignment page)

Week 13 – Nov 21

Topic – Narrative Film & TV

Assignment – Narrative Short Writing assignment – due Dec 8 in the Blackboard (submit on assignment page)

NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOV 24 FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14 – Nov 28 & Nov 30

Topic – “Digital Media” – differences, similarities to other formats

Week 15 – Dec 5 & 7

Topic – Final project interview LIVE in class on Thursday, December 8 (NO MAKE UPS!)

Assignment – FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT – DUE DEC 12th IN THE BLACKBOARD (SUBMIT ON ASSIGNMENT PAGE)

NO CLASS MEETING ON FINAL EXAM DAY (Tues, Dec. 12, 10:30am)

Dec 9 = Reading Day – NO CLASSES

FINALS = Dec 10-15

RTVF 2010 Grading & Assignments

Philosophy of Grading - What I look for and care most about is the obvious thought and energy that goes into your work. Connecting the dots between lessons, readings, and your projects is what this course is all about. Doing literally what is asked for in an assignment usually requires the least amount of effort and care, and it comes across in your work. Putting thought and effort into an assignment also comes across in the work.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas or words as your own. It will not be tolerated. Even when you are paraphrasing, you must give appropriate (and formal) credit to the source of the ideas or the words. Plagiarism will result in a failing course grade

Assignments

Written instructions for each assignment will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. All assignments will be due as postings in the Blackboard dropbox in either MICROSOFT WORD (.doc, .docx) or ADOBE ACROBAT (.pdf) formats. PLEASE print out your assignments and turn them into the professor on the scheduled **Date and Time**.

Grading

Grades will be figured out of a total of 500 points. Late assignments will be accepted and graded at 80% of the total possible points for that assignment (so if an assignment is worth 10 points, the highest score a late assignment could receive is 8 points).

Participation

Class participation is part of your final grade; I expect you to participate in all classroom exercises and discussion. This is a communication course and you must be able to communicate, experiment and share your ideas with your classmates. The instructor reserves the right to implement pop quizzes if the class does not read the assigned materials.

Your assignments are:

Package #1	25 points
Package #2	50 points
Package #3	75 points
Promo #1	25 points
Promo #2	25 points
Commercial	25 points
Radio	25 points
Documentary	100 points
Narrative Scene	25 points
Narrative Short Film	75 points
Final Project	100 points
Participation	50 points

TOTAL CLASS POINTS POSSIBLE = 600 POINTS

ATTENDANCE

Please be on time for class and be ready to work. A student may be absent without penalty for maximum of TWO full class periods. For each absence after that, your final grade will be reduced by one full letter grade. Note: three tardies will count as one absence.