

MRTS 3560 - INTERVIEWING AND PERFORMANCE– Fall 2026

Marc Fein MASTER SYLLABUS

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Office Information

- **Office hours by appointment**
- **Email: Marc.Fein@unt.edu** (Please USE it as primary contact)

Class Information

- **Location:** RTFP 180F
- Time: Mon/Wed 2:20-3:40pm**

Textbook: https://www.academia.edu/8069355/Always_Get_the_Name_of_the_Dog

Course Objectives

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of on-air performance/communication and interviewing for broadcast across multiple platforms. It will consider communication theories as they relate to the broadcast media environment and the practical application of basic skills needed to perform in a converged broadcast career.

Student Outcomes: By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze content prior to conducting the interview through research of both the topic and the interviewee.
- Apply theories of interviewing by developing questions appropriate to the situation and demonstrate a narrative flow during the interview.
- Demonstrate verbal skills needed to convey information to an audience across multiple platforms.
- Demonstrate contemporary broadcast standard performance in studio presentations and during live programming.
- Recognize and discuss the esoteric and practical differences of interviewing across varied professional media careers.

Class Basics

- Class assignments will be due on the scheduled date. If you do not alert me to an emergency or situation, **NO MAKEUP** will be given. **Your grade will be reduced by 15 points for each day it is late. After four days, you get a zero.**
- Gear for shooting interviews and assignments is available through the Media Arts checkout system. Further information will be on the assignment rubrics.
- You will need two (2) flash drives for submitting assignments.
- **Attendance and Participation:** This is an interactive class, and **participation is part of your evaluation.** I expect you to be there. If you cannot make it to class, you must communicate

to me why you are missing. Missing more than two classes will affect your grade.
STARTING WITH YOUR THIRD ABSENCE, YOUR GRADE WILL BE REDUCED BY 5 POINTS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ABSENCE.

- Your comments/observations in class will be critical. Please contribute.
- I do not want to see people on their phones or computers. If I have to tell you more than once, it will affect your participation grade.

Grading

20 pts Each: Five quizzes on material in the textbook.

25 pts Each: Five Individual or Group Projects

100 pts: Final Project

100 pts: Class Participation

Disability Accommodation: The RTVF Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students. If you have not registered with the ODA, we encourage you to do so. If you wish to take your exams at the testing center, please register with the ODA first. Please present your written Accommodation Request to me as early in the term as possible.

SPOT - Evaluations:

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) will be made available to you at the end of the semester providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in feedback from students as I work to continually improve my teaching.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' learning opportunities is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in inappropriate behavior will be directed to leave the classroom. The instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

Attendance Policy

There will be one (1) excused absence - after that, please provide a medical report or other documentation. **After 2 unexcused absences, you will drop five points on your final grade for each absence.** Notify the instructor if you will be absent. Use email: marc.fein@unt.edu.

Succeed at UNT: UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.

To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to success.unt.edu.

Mobile device policy: The Department of Media Arts prohibits using personal mobile devices

during class unless otherwise allowed by the individual Instructor. If no exceptions are included in a course syllabus, then the department policy remains in effect until the instructor changes it. Personal mobile devices are defined as anything and everything from cell phones to smartphones to digital media players to personal handheld computers. All devices should be turned off before entering the classroom or laboratory area.

Syllabus policy: While this syllabus outlines the expectations for successful completion of the course, it is not a contract. **Therefore, the instructor may alter some elements of the course as needed.**

MRTS department drop policy: This is an RTVF major course. Students without the correct prerequisites (both non-majors and pre-majors) are subject to being dropped from the course automatically, with or without notice. *Students missing class on the first day who do not immediately contact the instructor with a legitimate excuse may be dropped immediately without notice.*

Schedule notes: HB 256 provides students with an excused absence from attending classes, taking examinations or other required activities in observance of a religious holy day and related travel. It also provides that students be given reasonable time to take an exam or complete an assignment. Requests for accommodation must be made to the instructor a minimum of three days prior to the observed religious holy day.

Use of AI on your projects is not permitted. Using AI will be considered cheating and will be handled the same way.

Student Eagle Mail accounts will be used for all course correspondence. If you choose to use another email service, you must enable your Eagle Mail account to forward any messages. Instructions on how to configure Eagle Mail can be found at: <http://eaglemail.unt.edu>

<u>CLASS PLAN</u>
The class schedule/assignments may change – be flexible.
Class One: Introduction -Meet the Professor -Meet the Students -Syllabus/Book Info HW: -Read Chapter One in book. Be prepared to discuss two things you learned from the reading.

Class Two:

- Go over Chapter One
- Writing for TV and Radio PP
- Watch the Interview Video with Katie Curic

HW:

- Do prep for a feature story. Who would you interview? Have at least three people. And at least three questions you would ask each person. **YOU ARE NOT ACTUALLY DOING THE STORY.** This is just an opportunity to do research and prep work.

Class Three:

- Go over Homework
- Do adlib exercise

HW:

- Read Chapter Two in Book. Be prepared to discuss two things you learned.

Class Four:

- Go over Chapter Two
- Discuss MOS interviews
- Finish adlib exercise
- Pick groups

HW:

- With your group, come up with a subject and questions for MOS interviews for the next class

Class Five:

- Shoot MOS Interviews and Intro and Tag

HW:

- Edit Mos Interviews

Class Six

- Watch MOS Interview Projects

Homework:

- Chapter Three in Book. Be prepared to discuss two things you learned.

Class Seven:

- Watch MOS
- Go over Chapter three
- Discuss homework/ Basics of the Interview PP

HW:

- Watch an interview online and come into class prepared to present and discuss.
- Job interviewer did
- Follow Up Questions
- Did it hold your attention?
- Did you learn anything

Class Eight:

- Watch Interviews
- Watch Craig Melvin Interview video

HW:

- Interview anyone. It should be three to five minutes in length. Use what you have learned so far in this class.

Class Nine:

- Watch Student Interviews
- Stand-up PP

HW

- Read chapter four in the book. Come in prepared to discuss two things you learned. Also, bring ideas for a stand-up we will do in class.

Class Ten:

- Go over chapter four
- Do stand-ups

HW:

- Quiz on Chapters 1-4

Class 11:

- Quiz on chapters 1-4
- Watch Stand-ups
- Watch video on shooting an interview

HW:

- Work with your group on prep for the first major interview.
- Decide who you are going to interview, and who will do it.
- Tell me where it will be viewed (NTTV, CBS11, CBS News)
- Decide on the primary focus of the interview
- Do your research

- Identify your lead-in and be prepared to do it on camera
- Come up with at least five questions for the interview
- Think about what video you can use
- Schedule the Interview
- Interview should last five to ten minutes in length

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TURN IN THE INTERVIEW NEXT WEEK. YOU JUST NEED TO DO THE PREP. SCHEDULE THE INTERVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

Class 12:

- Present Interview #1 Research and Preparation

HW:

- Interview

Class 13:

- Watch Interviews and give feedback

HW:

- Read chapter five. Be prepared to discuss two things you learned.

Class 14:

- Go over Chapter five.
- PowerPoint on Anchoring

HW:

- Write and record an on-camera reader with a teleprompter.
 - Be prepared to Anchor in class
- Dress Appropriately!

Class 15:

- In Class Anchoring

HW:

- Read Chapter six. Be prepared to discuss what you learned.

Class 16:

- Go over Chapter Six
- Watch Podcast Interview
- PP on Podcast Interviews

HW:

- Prepare for Podcast Interview
- Find Subject
- Schedule date
- Do research and prepare questions

- Class 17:
- Present Podcast Interview Plans
 - In Class Exercise

- HW:
- Do Podcast Interview

- Class 18:
- Watch Podcast Interviews

- HW:
- Read Chapter Seven. Be prepared to discuss what you learned.

- Class 19:
- Go over Chapter Seven
 - Ideas Meeting PP
 - Package Editing PP

- HW:
- Plan with your group for major project #2.
 - Use same rubric from project #1

Planning Sheet

- Work with your group on prep for the first major interview.
- Decide who you are going to interview and who will do it.
- Tell me where it will be viewed (NTTV, CBS11, CBS News)
- Decide on the primary focus of the interview
- Do your research
- Identify your lead-in and be prepared to do it on camera
- Come up with at least five questions for the interview
- Think about what video you can use
- Schedule the Interview

-Interview should last five to ten minutes in length

Class 20:

-Present Plans for major project #2

HW:

-Project #2

-Read Chapter Eight in book. Be prepared to discuss what you learned.

-Plan for Project #3. Same Rubric

Class 21:

-Go over Chapter 8

-Present Plans for Project #3

HW:

-Project #3

Class 22:

-Present Project #3

HW:

-Read Chapters nine and ten in the book and be prepared to discuss.

Class 23:

-Go over Chapters nine and ten

-In class exercise