

Monday TV NEWS PRODUCING Phyllis Slocum Email: slocum@unt.edu	4850.001-5350.001 <u>Student Syllabus-4850 Fall 2024</u>
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Office Information

- **Hours:** Wednesday: 1:00 – 2:00 pm – By email appointment
- **Location:** NTTV (261-a)
- **Email:** slocum@unt.edu (Primary contact & to set up appointments)

Class Information

- **Location:** RTVF Building -- Room 282 **Time:** Mon/Wed: 10:00 a.m.–11:20 a.m.
- **No Text – Handouts for reading as assigned**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to teach the fundamentals of television news producing in a station-like environment. The course offers theoretical and practical application of basic skills needed to function in an entry-level television news producing position. The course will also provide information and discussion in areas of journalistic ethics; basic management skills; and working with on-air talent. This course is geared toward people who wish to become news and informational television producers and create a solid career in television news and information media.

- **Content:** Television information/news writing; Story structure; Newscast formats; Crafting a quality newscast; Producing newscasts; Critiquing your work and that of others; Writing teases and headlines; Blocking newscasts; Understanding your real audience; Understanding the role of talent; Ethics and your commitment to the truth; Exposure to media professionals and real-world discussions.

CLASS BASICS

- Access to a computer. Specific in-class assignments will be accepted in hand-written form. **All others WILL NOT.** You may email assignments to me as well if cleared first. Please use WORD as your format.
- Lab Assignments: 3.5 hours of lab work per week producing NTTV newscasts. You may also volunteer for any newscast or other NTTV production.
- 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.
- Attendance and Participation: This is an interactive class and participation is part of your evaluation. **We will start on time.** (The 6 o'clock news really does begin at 6:00 ☺). Your comments/observations in class will be important. Please contribute.
- **There will be one (1) excused absence** - after that, please provide either a medical report or other documentation. Notify the instructor if you will be absent.
- YOU are responsible for finding a replacement if you cannot make your shift.

Grading:

Final Project	150
3.5 Hours per Week Lab Assignments	150
Mid-Term Exam	75
Quizzes/Current Events	125
****Two Speaker Response Papers (your choice)	60 (30 each)
Class Assignments	100

(NOTE: Professor may make changes in quiz and assignments schedule which could alter number of available points. This will be clearly stated in class).

KEY DATES:

Newscast training week begins Tuesday September 3 with additional workshops the wk of Sept 9

All Newscast dry runs begin Monday September 9

NTTV Noon & Nightly News/ NTTV Noticias & Buenos Dias - Live begins Monday, September 16

Last Week of News- November 18-21

Disability Accommodation: The MRTS 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' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

SYLLABUS

The class schedule/assignments may change – be flexible	
DATE	TOPIC
Aug 19 Mon	<p>Class Introduction: 001:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose of course; TV News; Producer Roles; Organization; Goals <p><u>Handout:</u> TV Jargon/Discuss – QUIZ Monday Aug 26 – ON CANVAS</p> <p><u>Hand Out: Inception/ROSS– With examples-Exercises due Mon Aug 26</u> Discuss briefly and review</p>
Aug 21 Wed	<p>Lecture 1-Hands-on: Introduction to Inception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meet in Producer room (NTTV) – Review <u>TV News Jargon</u> ▪ Producer Schedule for Newscast assignments (Handout list) <p><u>HOMEWORK:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inception assignment turned in Mon Aug 26 in class
Aug 26 Mon	<p>Lecture 2: Formats and Blocks - What are they and their purpose?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception Homework <u>DUE</u> • TV Jargon QUIZ on Canvas-Due 6 pm tonight <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #1 – Lecture 2-Formats and Blocks (DUE TUESDAY <u>AUGUST 27</u> by Midnight!!!! – Short Turn around)
Aug 28 Wed	<p>Lecture 3: TV News Writing – The Words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QUIZ #2 – Lecture 3-Writing – The WORDS • DUE: Friday – <u>August 30</u> by 6 pm
Sept 2 Mon	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
Sept 3 Tue- Thur	<p>TRAINING WEEK – BEGINS TUESDAY ALL WEEK</p> <p>PRODUCER LABS BEGIN Tue Sept 3: <u>This week 3 pm to 4:30 pm</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain producing process/How content gathered • Hands on training for Live Shot field work
Sept 4 Wed	<p>Lecture 4: Lead Lines-Writing Your Beginnings</p> <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take QUIZ #3 –Lead Lines (Lecturer 4) • DUE FRIDAY SEPT 6 – Canvas – 9 am
Sept 9 Mon	<p>DRY RUNS BEGIN: 3 pm in PRODUCER ROOM</p> <p>Lecture #5: Story Structure/Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Current Events Quiz

	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Exercises: To be done ON Inception DUE MONDAY September 16 Turn in – in Class
Sept 11 Wed	Lecture 6: Headlines and Teases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events Quiz #1 Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for QUIZ # 4 – Lect. 6 Headlines and Teases
Sept 16 Mon	<p style="text-align: center;">***ALL NEWSCASTS GO LIVE THIS WEEK***</p> Lecture 7: Choosing a Newscast Lead – “Choices” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz # 4 – Lect. # 6 Headlines and Teases –Due 6 pm Tonight • Current events quiz # 2 - Wednesday
Sept 18 Wed	Lecture 8: Show Flow – What is it? How it helps viewers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events Quiz #2 Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow Exercise: See Rubric – Find/write 2 stories that demonstrate flow – explain your thinking • Write ON Inception with Correct script markings • Send as non-PDF Attachment to me – DUE MONDAY SEPT 23 6 PM
Sept. 23 Mon	ON ZOOM - Lecture 9: Pace/Story Count & Sound Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current events Quiz- Wed
Sept. 25 Wed	ON ZOOM-Guest Speaker: Sarah Bryant – News Director First Coast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due date IF you write on Sarah: Wed October 2 Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events Quiz # 3 DUE TONIGHT 6 pm
Sept 30 Mon	Lecture 10: True or False? Information Games & Critical Thinking <u>HOMEWORK:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find 3 fake news/debunk -- <u>DUE In Class Wed Oct 11</u> • See Rubric/Canvas-Teams of two
Oct 2 Wed	Guest Speaker: Kristin Diaz – KRLD Radio and TV Anchor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you write on Kristin, DUE DATE: Mon Oct 14 Current Events Quiz # 4 Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch a local newscast – take notes on structure/headlines/teases • What did you see/notice – discuss in class Monday

Oct 7 Mon	In Class Presentations: Debunking Fake News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams Share Findings • In Class Discussion: What you saw-Local News/structure/heads/writing -NOT the rundown
Oct 9 Wed	ALL NEWSCASTS – STATE FAIR DAY
Oct 14 Mon	Lecture 11: Digital Content Producing MID TERM ASSIGNED - DUE Monday October 21 IN CLASS
Oct 16 Wed	Lecture 12: How to Cover -What to Cover: Developing Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Events Quiz # 5 Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitching the Story/Assignments Desk – Teams assigned- Create story pitch for morning meeting- Present/critique in class • Follow handout /Outline/details due by EMAIL Wednesday Morning October 23 - No later than 9 am
Oct 21 Mon	WFAA FIELD TRIP MID TERM DUE TODAY – IN CLASS
Oct, 23 Wed	Team Presentations: Pitches/Assignments-Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Class – provide handout for Phyllis • Current Events Quiz # 6
Oct 28 Mon	Lecture 13: Research& Ratings – Why People Watch TV – Where Do They Get Their News Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paper – Interview 2 people-research – why they watch ▪ Due Monday Nov.4
Oct 30 Wed	KXAS FIELD TRIP
Nov 4 Mon	Lecture 14: Topicals and Image <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rx and Ratings paper DUE in class
Nov 5 Tues	*****ELECTION DAY*****
Nov 6 Wed	*****NO CLASS – NO NEWSCASTS*****

Nov 11 Mon	Guest Speaker: Joe Terrell News Director/Anchor GRAY Television <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you write on Joe, paper is DUE Monday Nov 18
Nov 13 Wed	Lecture 15: Breaking News
Nov 18 Mon	<p style="text-align: center;">LAST WEEK OF NEWSCASTS</p> Guest Speaker: Maria Delgado – WFAA Marketing/Creative Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you write on Maria, paper is DUE Mon Dec 2 (or earlier)
Nov 20 Wed	Final Project Assigned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUE Wednesday Noon – December 4 Happy Turkey Day!!
Nov 25 Mon	*****THANKSGIVING WEEK*****
Nov 27 Wed	*****THANKSGIVING WEEK*****
Dec 2 Mon	Work Day – Final Project – no class <p style="text-align: center;">*****Final Project DUE Wednesday Dec 4 – Noon*****</p>
Dec 4 Wed	No Class -Individual Meetings with Professor Slocum as requested
Dec 9-13	Graduation December - Congratulations!!