RT 311 Audio Journalism – Spring 2015
9:35 – 10:50 am Tuesdays and Thursdays – Comm 9a
Instructor: Joey Helleny Office: Comm 1050b
Mobile: 618-534-1667 Office: 618-453-6903

Office Hours: 11-12, 3:30 - 5 Tuesdays and Thursdays
2 – 3 pm Wednesdays  (If I’m not in 1050b at these times, check the RREE Newsroom) Other times by appointment
I’m usually in my office every day so feel free to stop by or call to see if I’m there.

Email: jhelleny@siu.edu Please put RTD 311 in the subject line of emails you send me about this class.

The techniques of gathering, producing and presenting news for radio and other aural media. Skills in research, interviewing, news judgment, ethics, and audio recording are explored. New distribution channels are examined. Lab hours required. Lab fee: $45. Prerequisite: RT 310 or consent of instructor.

Text: NewsNow by The Cronkite Team ($45-$94) SIU bookstore. This is the same text used for RT370.

Equipment: 1) headphones or earbuds 2) a flash drive or external hard drive 3) smartphone with audio recording app

Attendance:
Participation in class is a major part of the learning experience. Four absences will be allowed without any penalty. Beginning with the fifth absence, your grade will be lowered one full letter grade. Each additional two absences will result in another letter grade reduction. If you are covering a legitimate news story for WSIU-FM or RREE additional absences may be allowed if prior arrangements are made with the instructor. If you have other circumstances that require you to miss class, we may be able to make arrangements provided you notify the instructor prior to class.

No late entry to class. Once the door is closed, you are not allowed in. The only exceptions would be with prior permission from the instructor.

Cell Phone Policy: When you enter the classroom your cell phones should be turned to silent and stored in your backpack, purse, or pocket. Calls or texting are not allowed during class.

The following components will make up your grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News Stories</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Events Summaries</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter quizzes</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feature Story</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campaign Finance Paper</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Produced newscast</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics research paper</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviewing exercise</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50</td>
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</tbody>
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1000 points total
The following extra credit opportunities are available:
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and Global Media Research Center Lectures are always worth extra credit. Make sure you fill out a class card at the event. Some SINBA events will also count as extra credit.

News Stories
You will report and write FIVE audio news stories which include actualities. The stories should be produced under deadline conditions, meaning that they should be posted to D2L and emailed to WSIU-FM no later than 4 hours after your coverage/interviews. Instructions on how to deliver the product to WSIU will be provided later.

To receive points, you must have gathered the information, conducted the interview(s), written and produced the finished product. You may NOT simply take information from a print or broadcast story and present it as your own work. That is called plagiarism and will get you fired in the real world...and will get you a failing grade in this class. However, if you see a story in the newspaper or hear it on another station and do your own work to gather information for an original story (hopefully, even better) you may receive credit for that.

Points for each story will be awarded based on how well you do the following: (1) write a news story that is clear, concise, grammatically correct, and accurate. (2) provide balanced and fair coverage, or at least make the effort. (3) turn in the story on deadline. (4) make sure your audio quality is usable on the air. (5) develop your own story ideas. (6) show enterprise and creativity in story development, use of sound, or follow up.

Feature Story
In addition to your regular stories, you will report, write, produce, and record a longer story (also known as a feature). This report will be between 3 and 5 minutes in length. In most cases, you will have more than one source of information and the report should incorporate the use of natural sound. Before you start work on this feature, you should turn in a feature proposal.

Current Events Summaries
Each Tuesday, you will turn in a one-page summary of the top stories of the preceding 7 days. Be prepared to share your stories in class. You should highlight at least five stories.

Chapter Quizzes
Short quizzes on reading assignments and lectures.

Class Participation
Participation in class discussions will be evaluated here. The instructor also reserves the right to use this portion of the grade to reward overall reliability, willingness to learn, compliance with deadlines, extraordinary improvement, and special circumstances.

Ethics Paper
A 3 page paper on a journalism ethics case study.

Campaign Finance Report
You will research the campaign contributions and expenditures of an Illinois State Senator or Illinois State Representative.

Producing a Newscast
You will select and write the stories for a 3:30 minute newscast, using a variety of story formats (reader, voice, wrap, actuality, etc) and perform the mock newscast in class.

Interviewing Exercise
A chance for you to practice the interviewing skills we will talk about in class.

Twitter
If you don’t already maintain a Twitter presence, the exercise will help you practice the roll of using social media for journalism.

Important Reminders:
If you remain enrolled in the class, you agree to the terms of the syllabus. The syllabus, however, is just a general plan and may be revised as the semester progresses. In particular, the class schedule of topics is likely to change as guest speakers become available and current events drive topical discussions.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Session 1 – Introduction. What is news?
Session 2 – Writing tune-up
Session 3 – Tools of the newsroom/Where stories come from
Session 4 – Reporting Weather
Session 5 – Audio Editing
Session 6 – Using Twitter for newsgathering
Session 7 – Interviewing Skills
Session 8 – Interviewing Skills
Session 9 – Local Government
Session 10 – State Government
Session 11 – Federal Government
Session 12 – Campaigns and Elections
Session 13 – Campaigns and Elections
Session 14 -- Midterm
Spring Break
Session 15 – Data Driven Journalism
Session 16 – Sunshine Laws
Session 17 – Producing a Radio Newscast
Session 18 – Financial Markets
Session 19 – Crime and Courts
Session 20 – Crime and Courts
Session 21 – Sunshine Laws
Session 22 – Budgets and Taxes
Session 23 – TBA
Session 24 – Capturing and Using Nat Sound
Session 25 – Reporting on the Web
Session 26 -- Ethics
Session 27-- Ethics
Session 28 – Covering Disasters
Session 29 -- TBA
Session 30 -- review
May 14 – 8 am Final Exam
University’s Emergency Procedure Clause:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**Students With a Disability:**

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor what is the safest way to assist them.

**Tornado:**

During the spring semester we have a **Storm Drill.**

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to **be quiet in the basement** as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

**Fire:**

During the fall semester we have a **Fire Drill.**

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class.

**These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.**
**Bomb Threat:**

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an all clear. **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES.** Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

**Shooter in the Building:**

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe.

If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights. Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or in line of fire with the door. Students' chair and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. **Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive.** The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person **MUST** raise his/her hands above his/her head.

**Earthquake:**

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

**Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:**
We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and emails for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures. You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll over. You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to hrss.siu.edu (Human Resources Self-Services System), login with your regular SIU login username and password, click on Personal Information, fill out the information or update the information and save it. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

**CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:**

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.

**Women's Self Defense Classes** are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information contact Officer Mary Stark marys@dps.siu.edu.