RTD 470 Electronic News Field Production

Monday Wednesday 9:00-10:15 am
Room 9E New Media Center and RREE Newsroom
Instructor: Professor Eileen Waldron
Cell: 317 938 2905

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday: 2-5pm Room 1048 or 1015(newsroom)

IMPORTANT: STUDENTS CAN CHOOSE TO DO ONE OF THEIR DAILY NEWS STORIES FOR RADIO ON APPROVAL FROM THE INSTRUCTOR AND THE RADIO NEWS DIRECTOR.

RTD 470 COURSE OUTLINE & STRUCTURE

Television news is a dynamic medium and working in a TV newsroom on daily news is a vital skill to learn if you are a journalist. This class will provide a true “hands on” experience, which will go above the traditional lab experience. The class will be a combination of lectures and critiques; and a weekly reporting shift in our student newsroom.

- Students will learn the daily operations of a TV newsroom in a real world environment
- Students will work a daily news reporting shift every week to sharpen your same day and live reporting skills
- Students will have the opportunity for your stories to air on WSIU TV during River Region Evening Edition if approved by the news director
- Students will construct an online portfolio/resume site

This is a course in which you will take what you learned in RT 370, from internships or from RREE and go a step further. It is expected you will become more proficient in the use of field and editing equipment, the newsroom software system and the internet. Students will also learn more about the news assignment desk and overall newsroom operations. The goal is to help you to become better story tellers and prepare you for finding and keeping a job in broadcast journalism or a related field.

Schedule, Shift, Attendance Details

All RT 470 students will be required to work a shift of at least 6 hours every week in the River Region newsroom. You will be doing daily news as a reporter/videographer. You will be supervised by News Director Greg Todd and by student Executive Producer or Producers. You will do stories they assign or approve during your shift. Reporting shifts begin Monday February 9, which is the date of the first live show. There will be practice newscasts before that date.

Every Monday morning beginning February 9 you are required to turn in 3 story ideas and pitch the ideas during the morning meeting. We will first meet in the classroom (9E) and then go to the newsroom for the morning meeting at 9:30. The story ideas will be based on your beat calls on the
beat you have agreed to cover. I will check off your story ideas in the classroom and you can print them out in the newsroom to hand into the news director.

The morning meeting is where you can pitch story ideas for “day of” stories. So Monday’s show is the priority. You can also pitch an idea for the day you report.

Your attendance is REQUIRED unless you have obtained prior approval to miss a class for PURPOSES OF COVERING A STORY ONLY. One point based on a total of 100 for the semester will be deducted from each unapproved class absence (group or individual meetings) and for each newsroom shift that is missed without prior approval. Medical excuses are required for class or shifts missed due to illness. Late arrivals ARE NOT permitted. Once the classroom door is closed you can’t come in and you will be marked absent. There will be NO exceptions.

Textbook (Not required to buy, I will supply chapters)
Advancing the Story: Broadcast Journalism in a Multimedia World/CQ Press 2008/Debora Halpem Wenger and Deborah Potter
Read chapter 2–class discussion (TBA)
Read chapter 5–class discussion (TBA)
Other chapters may be assigned as well.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. NEWSROOM REPORTING SHIFT (REQUIRED). Reporters will be assigned shifts based on work and class schedules on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday every week beginning the week of February 9th. It is expected you will be available to report and/or shoot a story during those times you have listed as available. If you cannot fulfill an assigned reporting shift or other assigned functions, you are required to arrange a replacement with the instructor/news director’s approval. You should expect to work at least 1 reporter/videographer shift every week. You are required to have one 6 hour block of time available and to attend the 9:30 am morning meeting on the day you report unless you have class. All reporters are expected to write and edit their own stories including transcribing all sound bites. If your scheduled shift lasts until 6pm you are expected at show critiques.

2. ILLNESS: If you have cold or flu symptoms, you should stay home until you see a doctor. BUT YOU MUST CALL THE NEWS DIRECTOR AND MYSELF TO CALL IN SICK FOR A REPORTING SHIFT OR A CLASS. Please bring the health center receipt with you when you return to class.

3. YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE SD MEMORY AND YOU MUST HAVE YOUR OWN FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE BY February 2nd. BRING THEM TO CLASS ON THAT DAY.
4. MAJOR PROJECTS

A. TWO COMPLETED DAILY VO SOTS

B. TWO COMPLETED DAILY PACKAGES.

C. PORTFOLIO ONLINE SITE:
   Choose your best work to produce a resume online worthy of a news director’s attention. You may also use stories from RT 370, internships and/or stories produced for stations you work for off-campus. But the site MUST include at least two packages done for RT 470. Make sure the work is ALL yours. (Interns sometimes repackage the work of a professional reporter for purposes of getting material on tape… not allowed) Resume site critique: last regularly scheduled classes.

D. TECHNICAL LABS: SHOOTING, EDITING, GRAPHICS
   The cameras we use in the newsroom are Sony HD 2000’s

GRADE STRUCTURE/Deadlines

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>Maximum possible points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment check</td>
<td>In class Wednesday 2/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hard drive, SD card,</td>
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<td>headphones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beat calls/story ideas</td>
<td>3 written/printed each</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>week beginning Feb 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>VO sot #1</td>
<td>Due in folder by</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Wednesday Feb. 25th at</td>
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<td>9:00 am with script</td>
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<tr>
<td>VO sot #2</td>
<td>Due in folder by</td>
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<td>Thursday March 5th at</td>
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<td>7:00pm with script</td>
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<td>Package #1</td>
<td>Due in folder by</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 4/15 at</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
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<td>Package #2</td>
<td>Due in folder by</td>
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<td>Monday 4/27 at 9:00am</td>
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<td>On line portfolio site</td>
<td>Due in folder by</td>
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<td>Monday 5/4 at 9:00am</td>
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<td>Class attendance and</td>
<td>-1 every unexcused</td>
<td>10 max</td>
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<td>newsroom shifts</td>
<td>absence</td>
<td>(- unlimited)</td>
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<td>Extra credit live shots, or</td>
<td>Must email professor to</td>
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<td>additional shifts or stories</td>
<td>document</td>
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<td>100 (+ 10 possible extra credit)</td>
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Grading Scale for Packages

A – Broadcast Quality! Excellent Content & Production. Not Late; Exceeds Expectations (20-25 points)

B – Broadcast Quality! Good Content & Production. Not Late; Above Expectations (15-19 points)

C – Broadcast Quality! Fair Content & Production. Meets Expectations (10-14 points)

D – Poor Broadcast Quality. Has Potential. Does Not Meet ALL Expectations (5-9 points)

F – Not worthy of Revision. Fails to Meet ANY/MOST Expectations (0-4 points)

Dos and Don’ts

DON’T interview people with their back to a window…

DON’T hang the mic cord down the front of the person where you can see it

DON’T record an interview in a noisy location with a lav mic - use a stick mic

DON’T shoot an interview without headphones

DON’T shoot anything without a tripod

DON’T shoot with auto focus

DON’T shoot wild pans and zooms

If you do any of the above it will result in poor video or audio and you will lose points

DO shoot wide- medium-tight sequences

DO use natural light whenever possible-get natural light on the person’s face

DO shoot interviews with the camera at subject’s eye level

DO use the ND filter in bright outdoor locations

DO white balance every time you change locations
DO have your own SD card and hard drive for pre produced stories
DO use your best video at top of package
DO use sequences when editing
DO use natural and ambient sound
DO color correct if you have a white balance problem
DO sweeten audio if there is a problem
DO add FCP graphics
DO watch and review story to catch flash frames and bad edits
DO play back story on the desktop
DO follow server instructions- very detailed
DO ask producer to check your package playback in control room

Equipment required:
1 Professional 16 GB video SD card (example attached)
Firewire or comparable Hard Drive
Headphones!

All work will go on the NMC server:

From the Mac Finder, select Go > Connect to Server... (or press Apple-K):
* Server Address: afp://nmclab.siu.edu
* Name: rtd470waldron
* Password: tvnews (all lowercase)

**RTD 470-3 Television News Field Production** - Advanced field reporting for television. Students will work under the supervision of the instructor to develop, investigate and report news stories for television. Class will utilize professional grade video recorders, cameras and editing systems. Lab fee: $55. Prerequisite: RT 370 or consent of instructor.
Bring these items below to class on Wednesday February 4
If you don't have these you can't take RT 470.

1 Professional 16 GB video SD card (example attached)
Fire wire or comparable Hard Drive
Headphones

Student Signature:__________________________________

Late arrivals Are NOT permitted. Once the classroom door is closed you can’t come in and you will be marked absent. There will be NO exceptions.

Cell Phone Policy: When you enter the classroom your cell phones should be on silent and stowed in a backpack or purse. Calls or texting are not allowed during class. If you ignore this once you will be marked absent but you must stay in class. If you continue to ignore this policy your grade will drop one grade for each incident.

Computer policy: This is a computer lab so if there isn’t a class in the room -you are allowed to use the computer before or after class. Once class begins you are to log out of Facebook or email. There is no personal computer use during class. If you ignore this once you will be marked absent but you must stay in class. If you continue to ignore this policy your grade will drop one grade for each incident.

Class Communication: We will communicate through Desire2Learn: online.siu.edu This SIUC site is where I will post my electronic syllabus and make any announcements related to the class. I will use this to email everyone in the class if need be If you need to write a return email please enter this into the subject line: 470-last name.