

**BROADCAST JOURNALISM**  
**Journal 1145**

Mondays 6 - 8:40 pm  
Instructor: Rick Bukoski, adjunct  
Home 255-1564  
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Office Hours: To Be Announced

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to the principles of researching, interviewing, writing, editing and presenting broadcast news.

The class will be responsible for operating an on-campus online news and information station.

The focuses of this course are: (a) understanding the basic components in broadcast scripts, (b) interpreting different news terminologies, and (c) applying the news style guidelines to create a professional newscast. News writing, interviewing and radio and TV news performance are mandatory in the coursework.

Each student will be responsible for (1) a news story each week that involves at least one audio interview and has been researched, edited and recorded with the student's voice and delivered for on-air use as part of an online newscast (2) live in-class recorded broadcasts (3) one investigative or expanded report of at least 5 minutes that contains at least three audio interviews (interviews previously used in news stories can be used again for this project) (4) one long-form 10-minute recorded interview, (5) video segments including VOs (video), VoSots (video and recorded interviews) and a PKG (package) and (6) participate in at least one video-recorded television newscast.

Lesson Structure:

Lectures, group discussions, and classroom activities will be arranged from formatting radio and television news scripts, writing hard and soft news stories, performing electronic editing, evaluating the students' weekly news stories and news broadcasts, evaluating national radio and TV newscasts and news values and ethics in electronic journalism.

Guest speakers from WJAC-TV 6 in Johnstown and WTAJ-TV in Altoona will visit the class and observe and critique live newscasts.

Required Tools:

Each student is required to have a digital audio recorder and medium to high quality microphone with an appropriate adapter for use with the digital recorder and for the student's computer or laptop. A video camera or videophone would be useful as well. Each student is required to download a free online audio editing program for his or her computer or laptop.

The required text is:

Papper, RobertA., Broadcast News and Writing Stylebook (2013, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition), Pearson, Boston ISBN – 13: 978-0-205-03227-3

Course Objectives:

1. Define and recall important terminologies and rules in news writing.
2. Identify and explain different types of news approaches.
3. Determine the strengths and weaknesses in a news script.
4. Apply the learned strategies to evaluate the news stories.
5. Use and cite sources appropriately.
6. Write broadcast scripts and new stories regularly.
7. Perform your written work verbally and physically for on-air and in-class audiences.

Diversity Policy: To create a safe and positive learning environment, each student's opinion and voice will be valued and should be respected by each participant in the classroom disregard of different races, genders, ages, socioeconomic statuses, cultures, religious practices, or occupations.

Originality: To be fair to every student in class, cheating and plagiarism will receive an "F" in this course. Plagiarism is an academic misconduct that copies or paraphrases others' work without giving credit to them. You must acknowledge your sources and add your own analysis in your coursework. The instructor will provide many resources, including "story starters" with recorded interviews that can be used in addition to the student's own interview(s) and emails, including audio, of the news and sports of the day.

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### **Date and Activity**

Jan 6 Introduction

Jan 13 Writing Assignment 1, radio and TV News update

*Jan 20 – no class, Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

- Jan 27 Writing Assignment 2, radio and TV News update
- Feb 3 Writing Assignment 3, Quiz 1, radio and TV News update
- Feb 10 Writing Assignment 4, radio and TV News update, Vosot 1 due
- Feb 17 Writing Assignment 5, radio and TV News update
- Feb 24 Writing Assignment 6, Mid term exam, radio & TV News update
- Mar 3 Writing Assignment 7, radio and TV News update
- Mar 10 – no class Spring Break*
- Mar 17 Writing Assignment 8, Quiz # 2, radio and TV News update
- Mar 24 Writing Assignment 9, radio and TV News update, VoSot 2 due
- Mar 31 Writing Assignment 10, radio and TV News update
- April 7 Writing Assignment 11, radio and TV News update, TV PKG due
- April 14 Writing Assignment 12, radio and TV News update
- April 21 Final Exam

Six points given for each day of attendance. Schedule subject to change by instructor.