

Centro de Estudios Interamericanos – CEDEI - Fall 2007
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
COMMUNICATION 341 TV NEWS REPORTING AND PRODUCTION

Instructor: Bill Johnson, Lecturer
Emeritus, Department of Communication
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday,
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Monday through
Thursday 3:00-5:00 or by appointment
Class meetings Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10:30-12:30

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Students will learn to report, shoot and edit television news stories. The class will also focus on assembling the news stories into a coherent TV news program. The skills essential to creating and presenting the news stories will include reporting, writing, and interviewing. Additionally, students will gain skills in the art and techniques of visual storytelling, reporting on-camera, camera operation, sound and picture editing, extemporaneous “live” reporting and news program continuity. There will be the additional element of news reporting in a foreign environment. Some interviews will be conducted in Spanish, but assistance will be provided to Spanish language beginners.

Grading will be based on the following activities:

Two quizzes:	30% (TBA)	A	90-100
News Stories:	45%	B	80-89
Final Exam:	15%	C	70-79
Class Participation	10%	D	60-69
Total	100	F	59 or below

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

You are expected to attend every class session. You are allowed no unexcused absences. If you are sick, call CEDEI and let the staff know. All assignments are due on the dates indicated for each as per instructions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You will be responsible for material in the text and lectures. Individual assignments due when indicated by instructor. At the end of the semester will turn in to the instructor a reel of your best work. Specifics about the reel assignment will be discussed in class. This course may be taken concurrently with Communication 332 TV News Practicum. **ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE HANDED IN ON TIME. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BUT GRADE WILL REFLECT LATENESS.**

All written assignments will be typed, with proper headings and in proper double spaced form. Use normal 12-point type. No exceptions. All video for news stories will include “slate” and countdown.

TEXT: Shook, Fred, *Television Field Production and Reporting*, IV Edition. NYC: Pierson Education, 2005. (TV News Reporting and TV News Practicum will use the same text. Check for new or used copies on line.)

CLASS ACTIVITIES:

Specific news assignments will be given to you in class

Week 1	September 11	Shook, Chapters 1 and 9 Course Introduction: Telling the story visually. Differences between print, radio and television newswriting. Writing the lead TV news story structure. Visual grammar, sequences and visual story telling:
	September 13	Shook, Chapter 2 Video Editing
	September 14	Shook, Chapter 3 Shooting stories in the field, communicating with the newsmaker, shooting action that you can't control
Week 2	September 18	Shook, Chapter 4 Working in an international context. Controlling light in the field.
	September 20	Shook, Chapter 5
	September 21	Microphones, and controlling sound in the field and in the editing room.
Week 3	September 25	Shook, Chapter 6 Researching the story, conducting and shooting the interview. Relating international stories to the "folks at home."
	September 27	Shook, Chapter 7 Television news scripting and TV news story types.
	September 28	Shook, Chapter 8 (and review 9) Making sure your story has "focus" and connects to your audience.
Week 4	October 2	Shook, Chapter 10
	October 4	Appearing on camera (The "standup": The news reporter as "talent.")
	October 5	Shook, Chapter 11. The TV newsroom and structure of the TV newscast.
Week 5	October 9 (Holiday, no class)	
	October 11	Shook, Chapter 13 Going "live." Live interviewing in the field
	October 12	Shook, Chapter 12 TV Sports and feature reporting
Week 6	October 16	Shook, Chapters 14 and 15
	October 17	Law and Ethics, Continued. Course review.
	October 18	Final Exam