

9-2009

## JOUR 270.02: Reporting

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The University of Montana  
School of Journalism  
Missoula, MT 59812

## **RTV 270-02 – Reporting**

### **Syllabus - Fall 2009 (subject to change)**

**Scope:** Fundamentals of reporting and writing news for print and broadcast including use of digital audio recording and editing equipment.

**Class meets** Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in Don Anderson Hall-005.

**Frequency of Offering:** This course is offered autumn and spring semesters.

**Instructor:** Ray Fanning, Assistant Professor, School of Journalism, Radio-Television Department.

**Office:** Don Anderson Hall 409

**Office hours** are 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays. I'm also available at other times by appointment.

**Office phone:** 243-4747.

**My regular e-mail:** [ray.fanning@umontana.edu](mailto:ray.fanning@umontana.edu).

**Required textbooks:** *Broadcast News & Writing Stylebook, 4th Edition*, by Robert A. Papper. *Inside Reporting*, by Tim Harrower.

I expect you to read a newspaper, visit news web sites, listen to radio news and watch television news. I will give periodic news quizzes.

**Successful Jour 270 students will:**

- **Write accurate, clear, concise, and interesting stories**
- **Learn and follow print and broadcast writing rules and organization**
- **Demonstrate good news judgment**
- **Exhibit strong research and interviewing skills**
- **Understand and use various print and broadcast story formats**
- **Be proficient with audio recording equipment and editing software**
- **Show an understanding of legal and ethical issues facing reporters**

### Final Grade Breakdown

Writing Assignments	25%
Attendance	10%
Writing and editing news packages	40%
First Package	
Second Package	
Review quiz	10%
Writing Final	15%

### Grading Scale:

A	100-95%
A-	94-90%
B+	89-88%
B	87-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-78%
C	77-73%
C-	72-70%
D	69-60%
F	Below 60%

### Diversity Initiative

The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. You will need to integrate one of these groups into your first radio package. We will discuss this during the preparation for the assignment.

### Academic Honesty

I expect your honesty in presenting your own work for this course. Academic misconduct at The University of Montana is subject to an academic penalty ranging from failing the assignment to expulsion from the university. Students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>  
You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously, or will be concurrently, submitted for another class, unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an F for the assignment and could result in an F for the course.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at [www.umt.edu/dss/](http://www.umt.edu/dss/).

## **Class-by-Class Topics and Assignments**

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### **Week 1: Papper 1and 2**

**September 1-**

**News, the news audience and reporting**

**Assignment:** News judgment exercise

**September 3-**

**Who, What, When Where, Why and How**

**Assignment:** In class- write a simple news story

### **Week 2: Papper 3-6**

**September 8-**

Broadcast writing basics – Papper 3-5

**Assignment:** in class: correct sentences on handout

**Assignment:** out of class: rewrite an AP wire story in broadcast style

**September 10-**

Recording equipment and editing software

### **Week 3: Papper 6-8**

**September 15-**

Review first assignment (wire rewrite)

Sentences- Papper 6

Leads and Endings- Papper 7

Stories- Papper 8

**Assignment:** in class: write hard and soft leads for a set of given facts

**Assignment:** out of class: structure and write a story based on the war protest facts.

**September 17-**

Review first assignment (wire rewrite)

Script format

Listen to radio stories

Writing the story- Papper 8 (continued)

**Assignment:** Choose a President Obama bite from his Montana town hall meeting on healthcare and record two reaction interviews for a story that is due Thursday, October 1.

**Week 4: Papper 9 and 10**

**September 22-**

Story ideas for final package due  
Pitch story ideas and discuss in class

Gathering and working with sound- Papper 9

Research and Interviewing- Papper 10

Radio forms- Papper 11

**Assignment:**

Out of class- write and edit healthcare story that is due September 24.

**September 24-**

Radio forms- Papper 11 (continued)

**Assignment:** In class: write a 20 second reader and a 45 second wraparound with one bite... based on a handout

**Week 5:**

**September 29-**

**Review Quiz**

Role playing breaking news exercise

**October 1-**

Finish plane crash exercise- outline the story

Package due- (Obama healthcare plus reaction interview)

### **Week 6: Papper 13 and 16**

**October 6-**

Review assignment (governor's debate package)

Class listens to packages and critiques them

**October 8-**

**Final Package outlines due**

Review first packages

Write plane crash story on deadline.

### **Week 7: Papper 18**

**October 13-**

Convergence- Papper 14

Diversity

Representing the whole community when looking for sources

Ethics- Papper 18

**October 15-**

Teases- Papper 16

**Assignment:** In class- students write teases based on handout stories, then share them with the class

Writing EXAM

### **Week 8:**

**October 20-**

Class listens to final packages and critiques them