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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and editing news packages</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Package</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Package</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Review quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Final</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>87-83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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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](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 1 and 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: Paper 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.

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**Week 7: Paper 18**

**October 13-**
Convergence- Paper 14
Diversity
Representing the whole community when looking for sources
Ethics- Paper 18

**October 15-**
Teases- Paper 16

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

Writing EXAM

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**Week 8:**

**October 20-**
Class listens to final packages and critiques them