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RTV 494.01: Senior Seminar

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RTV 494-Senior Seminar-CRN 72492

Autumn 2003-3 Credits

Scope-This course will be a seminar in the strict sense of the term. American Heritage Dictionary defines seminar as (1) A small group of advanced students in a college or graduate school engaged in original research or intensive study under the guidance of a professor who meets regularly with them to discuss their reports and findings. (2) A meeting for an exchange of ideas; a conference.

General Education/Journalism Credits: This course is required for your BA degree in journalism (broadcast option) or in radio-television (production option). It is an upper-division writing course toward your general education requirements. It does **NOT** fulfill a general education ethics requirement.

Frequency of Offering: This course is offered each fall semester. It is to be taken in the student's final fall semester in residence.

Class Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:10 to 11:00 am in Gallagher Room 226. Class time is flexible depending on the class content. Some joint meetings may be held with the print/photo senior seminar. Those joint meetings would take place in another venue. Any changes to class meeting times or locations will be announced in class.

Instructor: Denise Dowling, visiting assistant professor, Department of Radio-Television.

Office: 730 Eddy Room 101.

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11-1. You can find me in 730 Eddy or the PAR-TV building every afternoon overseeing PBS Newsbrief and UM News. I am also happy to schedule time to meet you outside office hours.

Office Telephone: 243-4143. There is voice mail on this number. You can call me at home as well. 251-0357.

Required Textbooks: There is no required textbook for this class. However, I do expect you will do a significant amount of reading as you research your papers and class topics.

E-mail: Each student must have a working e-mail address that can be provided to the instructor and fellow students. You will also be placed in an email group containing all seniors in the Radio-Television Department.

Attendance: You will be allowed one unexcused absence. If you must miss a class due to illness or university business, you **MUST** notify me in advance. A message on my voice mail will suffice. I realize some of you will be required to shoot/report for newsbrief during class time. If you have the option, schedule the shoot for a different time. If you have two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop one letter grade. If

you miss three or more classes, you will fail the course. Please arrive on time as we will often have guests and late arrivals are distracting. If you are late three times, it will be considered an absence.

Grading:

Paper 1-Biography, Industry Interest, Ethics	10%
Paper 2-State of the Industry	30%
Paper 3-Issue Position Paper	30%
Class Participation	10%
Host/Facilitator	20%

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Description of Assignments

Paper 1-Biography, Industry Interest, Ethics (10%)

Due Monday, September 8th

Write a paper sharing your life story. You may write it in the first or third person. The biographical section of the paper should run 3-5 double spaced, typewritten pages. Additionally, write at least one page on an area of broadcast that you would like to explore in depth this semester. This can range from production to on-air to editorial. Write one more page on what you think is the most interesting or pressing issue facing the media today. Hand in a hard copy (no disks please) which will not be returned.

Paper 2-State of the Industry

Due Monday, October 20th

Write a paper on the current state of an area of the broadcast industry. This may or may not be the same topic you wrote about in your first paper. You must interview at least two people in person (phone is okay, no email) for this paper. They should be currently or formerly involved in your interest area. They must not be from the same company or organization. Use the information you get from them and at least three other sources (books, trade magazines, *credible* internet sites) to write your paper. You must properly cite your sources (we'll cover how to do this in class) and submit a list of the references you used. This paper should run 7-10 double spaced, typewritten pages. Again, no disks.

Paper 3-Media Issue Position Paper

Due Monday, November 24th

Write a paper taking a stance on an issue currently faced by the media. You must conduct at least 2 interviews (again, no email) and use at least three other sources in the research for this paper. Take a position on an issue, and support your own position with your research, but use arguments from all sides to show the range of disagreement on the topic. This paper should run 7-10 double spaced, typewritten pages. No disks.

****Papers are due at the start of class on the due date. If your paper is late, you will lose ten points (out of 100) per day until the paper is turned in. If you hand the paper in on the due date, but after the start of class, you will lose 5 points.**

You will always have the opportunity to re-write a paper. A re-write will allow you the **POSSIBILITY** of raising your score by a maximum of 20 points.

Facilitation

You will be assigned to facilitate one class meeting. You will either be assigned a guest speaker, or you will be assigned to lead a class discussion of a media issue.

If you are assigned a guest, you will be expected to pre-interview the guest, come up with a list of questions, and keep the class going for at least an hour. You will introduce your guest, allow them to make a few comments, then open it up for questions/discussion. You must address at least one ethical issue with your guest. You will need to hand in your questions and notes on any research you conducted to prepare. You will be graded on your preparation and on how well the class runs.

If you are assigned to lead a class on an issue, you will be assigned a topic. You must research the topic, look for examples and lead the class in discussion. You will need to hand in notes on any research or reading you did. You will be graded on the thoroughness of your preparation and your ability to engage your fellow students in a lively discussion of your topic. You may be assigned a student partner for your project. If so, you will also be graded on your teamwork with that person.

I will have the facilitation assignments set by the second week of class. I will try to assign you a guest or issue that you expressed interest in in your first paper. You may use your facilitation assignment as your topic for Paper 2 or 3. However, any information that comes up in class would be in addition to the interviews assigned. In other words, you may NOT count your guest as one of your two interviews. You may use the information from the guest speaker, but you would still need to conduct two additional interviews. You may use the research you conducted for your facilitation assignment in your paper.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, in a nutshell, is using other people's words, ideas, data or materials as your own. Some people consider the use of 7-10 words in a row, copied from another source, as plagiarism. Be sure to include citations when using other people's writing, because plagiarism is a serious offense in any discipline, especially in journalism. It's a firing offense in the professional world. In the Department of Radio-Television at The University of Montana, students face a range of penalties for plagiarism.

- a grade of "F" on the assignment
- a request that the student drop the class;
- withdrawal of the student from the class, initiated by the professor;
- an "F" in the course;
- denial of the student's degree
- expulsion, suspension or probation from the university.

A combination of these penalties may also be used. If you need more information or have questions about plagiarism, ask your nearest journalism professor or consult the student conduct code.