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JRNL 481.01: Advanced Video Photography and Directing

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JRNL 480 / 481
Autumn 2015
Advanced Video Reporting
Advanced Video Photography & Directing

Scope: This is an advanced broadcast class, with strong emphasis on producing, writing, directing, photography, editing and production.

You will produce a weekly edition of *UM News*, an update of what's happening on campus. You'll spend each week reporting, shooting, writing, editing producing and directing for this show. The programs will air on television stations across Montana and on the Internet.

Pre-requisite: JRNL 351 or 352.

Class Time: The class officially meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:10-11:00 in the television studio, control room and DAH 114. The class will meet on Tuesdays from 3:40-5. You will spend a good deal of time outside of class completing your assignment(s) for the week.

Instructors: Ray Ekness, professor, Journalism/Radio-TV
DAH 402
Phone: 243-4088
E-mail: ray.ekness@umontana.edu
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 8:30-9:30am (or by appointment)

Ray Fanning, associate professor, Journalism/Radio-TV
DAH 405
Phone: 243-4747
E-mail: ray.fanning@umontana.edu
Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-2:30pm (or by appointment)

Attendance: Mandatory. You must notify one of us in advance if you expect to miss a class. The only acceptable excuses are University business or severe illness that must be documented by Curry Health Center or other medical professional. We reserve the right to require students with unexcused absences to drop the course.

On-Air Work: Your work may or may not air on the weekly edition of UM News. As seniors, you are expected to produce work that meets PROFESSIONAL standards. Your instructors will evaluate your work in terms of accuracy and audience interest, clarity of thought and writing, quality of video and editing and anchor appearance, diction and vocal work. If the professors deem that your work doesn't meet the broadcast standards above, you will not be allowed to anchor, direct, report, etc. for the broadcast and may be asked to drop the class.

Successful JRNL 480/481 students will:

- Research and report interesting, character-driven stories appropriate for the *UM News* audience.
- Meet professional standards for producing, anchoring and directing *UM News*.
- Successfully perform production crew assignments.
- Demonstrate good news judgment in reporting stories and producing shows.
- Write clear, concise and accurate scripts.
- Demonstrate strong and creative storytelling skills.
- Demonstrate an ability to re-purpose *UM News* stories for the web and add additional content.
- Master various script formats including reader, voice-over, voice- to- sound-on-tape, and reporter package.
- Demonstrate an ability to use newsroom software programs, and to shoot and edit video.
- Work well with others and meet all deadlines.
- Think critically and creatively.
- Report fairly and accurately.
- Show an ability to calculate, understand and report numeric information.

Diversity Initiative: The well-rounded journalist knows how to tell stories from varied perspectives. The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. Diversity means not only racial diversity but also ethnic, socio-economic, gender and age diversity. You will need to integrate these groups into at least one of your news packages, which must focus on a diversity issue. We will discuss the groups of people and some possible story ideas during the preparation of the assignments

UM By The Numbers: Journalists are very often obliged to present numeric information to put a story in context. In an effort to facilitate the reporting of economic/business information you will be required to seek out numeric content relating to your stories. This information may be part of the story proper, or expressed as a sidebar/backgrounder. For at least three of your stories this semester you must calculate and express some numeric information about your story, presented in a graphic form.

Grades: Grades will be based on your ability to meet deadlines, teamwork, story ideas, class participation, writing, shooting, editing, producing and research. You will be given a grade each week for your specific assignment.

- Story Ideas/Research-20%
- Weekly Grade for UM News Assignment-50%
- Web Content-20%
- Attitude/Attendance/Class Participation-10%

A	100-94%
A-	93-90%
B+	89-88%
B	87-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-78%
C	77-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-68%
D	67-63%
F	Below 63%

Same Work for Multiple Classes in J-School: 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.

Academic Honesty: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

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/.

After Hours Access: You will NOT need to submit a form for Autumn 2015 if you are a JOUR/RTV graduate student OR undergraduate student, already admitted to the Professional Program. Your security code has already been generated for the semester and your GrizCard has already been activated. You will have continual access (during the semester) to DAH, until you graduate or drop from the professional program.

JRNL 480 / 481 Autumn 2015

UM News

(Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10-11am & Tuesdays 3:40-5:00)

Each week, the class will produce a television news segment focusing on campus news. The 3:30 program and the weekly packages produced will be offered for air on commercial stations in Montana. Additionally, all packages will be converted and posted onto Vimeo and on our website.

UM News will concentrate on news about The University of Montana including campus issues & security, ongoing research, faculty and student news & concerns, performing arts and special events. The audience is not students but Montanans of all ages.

On Monday we will review your package scripts for that week's story. On Tuesday afternoons, we will view rough cuts of packages. We'll be recording segments on Wednesday followed by a story meeting for your next packages. On Fridays, we will review and critique the newscasts and packages and get story updates.

A good portion of your grade will depend on your ability to research and pitch solid story ideas that become good news pieces.

Directors and Producers are primarily responsible for the productions and meetings. We expect you to communicate, cooperate and create a memorable show. Stick to your deadlines, be flexible and work together on all aspects of the program.

Job Descriptions:

- Producer-Runs story meeting, reviews stories throughout the week, builds rundown, works closely with director on creating graphics, delivers program to the television station via FTP.
- Director-Runs story meeting, reviews stories throughout the week, creates graphics, creates Thunder sequence, directs program, exports, delivers program to the television station via FTP.
- Reporter-Researches story ideas BEFORE CLASS and pitch. Shoots, logs, writes, edits, sends to Thunder and posts story online and on website.
- Photographer-Researches story ideas BEFORE CLASS and pitch. Shoots, logs, writes, edits, sends to Thunder and posts story online and on website.
- Reporter/MML- Researches story ideas BEFORE CLASS and pitch. One-person-band, Shoots, logs, writes, edits, sends to Thunder and posts story online and on website.
- Online- Researches story ideas BEFORE CLASS and pitch. Shoots, logs, writes, edits and posts online offering on website.

WEDNESDAY-RECORDING DAY

Everyone will also work as part of the production crew on taping days.

Anchors/Live reporters

10:00am or earlier- in newsroom

- familiarize yourself with stories and pronunciations
- clarify any questions with producer

10:05 am- on set with microphones and IFBs on

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Assistant Producer/Assistant Director

10:00am or earlier- in newsroom

- Check with producer and director to see if they need any help

10:05am- in control room ready to time the show and segments

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Audio

10:00am or earlier- in control room

10:05am- Check microphone placement on anchors and perform microphone checks

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Studio Camera

10:00am or earlier- in studio

10:05am- at your camera with headset on, ready for rehearsal

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Deko

10:00am or earlier- in control room- graphics loaded

10:05am- ready for rehearsal

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Director

9:00 am- Print rundown and scripts for self and crew

9:05 am- Check on video in Thunder and load sequence

9:15 am- Pick up scripts from producer and mark scripts

 Troubleshoot any problems

9:30 am- Review graphics with producer on Deko

10:05 am- Make sure crew is in place and ready to rehearse

10:10 am- Rehearse and record show

After-Export program and upload to stations via FTP

Floor Manager

10:00am or earlier- in studio

10:05am- headset on, ready for rehearsal

10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Producer

- 8:30 am- Have rundown and scripts ready for instructor review
- 9:00 am- Print rundown and scripts for self, anchors. Check with director to make sure rundown and scripts are printed and current.
- 9:30 am- Load graphics into Deko and review them in control room with director
- 9:40 am- Print two copies of scripts for anchors
 - Load prompter
- 10:05 am- Make sure anchors are on set and miked
 - Be in the control room- Check IFBs
- 10:10 am- Rehearse and record show
- 10:30 am- Archive show and load template for next week
 - Deliver UM News program to station

TD

- 10:00am or earlier- in control room- go over show with director
- 10:05am- ready for rehearsal
- 10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

Thunder

- 10:00am or earlier- in control room- check Thunder sequence with director
- 10:05am- ready for rehearsal
- 10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin

VTR

- 10:00am or earlier- in equipment room- get instructions on recording the show
- 10:05am- ready for rehearsal
- 10:10am- Rehearsal and recording begin
- After-Work with director on exporting programs