

Winter 1-2016

# JRNL 391.01: Sports Announcing Play-by-Play

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# JRNL 391

## Syllabus-Wintersession 2016

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### Sports Announcing Play-by-Play

#### Course Outline:

Sports Announcing Play-by-Play will provide hands-on opportunities for students to perform in the roles of play-by-play announcer, color commentator, and program producer. Each student will work six games during the session, rotating through the jobs gaining experience in each role. Students will work in teams of three and provide feedback and critiques for their teammates.

#### Learning Outcomes:

- The successful JRNL 391 student will learn about organization and preparation for live sports broadcasts. They will learn proper research techniques to be ready for a game broadcast. They will also learn useful methods for keeping accurate statistics for the game being covered.
- The successful student will also gain valuable experience by announcing live sports events and improving their ability to communicate accurate information and a coherent storyline for listeners/viewers.

#### Job assignments:

Each student will perform in each of these three jobs during their six game schedule. The *play-by-play announcer* will be the main voice and provide a running account of the game action. The *color commentator* will add additional information and insight into players, coaches, game action and relevant storylines. The *producer* will assist with logistics (media passes/arrangements) and technical set-up and provide statistical support.

#### Equipment:

JRNL 391 students will record their radio broadcasts on a Marantz audio recorder. Students will be using a Mackie Mixer with two microphones (headsets) as well as a third microphone for ambient crowd noise. Students will be required to post these audio files on Sound Cloud for class access, peer review and class time playback. There will also be a television assignment that will use the mentioned equipment along with an XD Cam recorder to capture the video and audio of the project.

**By the Numbers:**

Journalists often need to present basic numeric information to put a story in context. In sports reporting and broadcasting we are drowning in numbers and statistics, you will be required to give context and significance to these numbers during your broadcast. You can present this as a play-by-play announcer or color commentator. This will be required in each game broadcast you produce for the class.

**Diversity in programs:**

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 ethnic, socio-economic, gender and age diversity. As a team, we will work to ensure appropriate representation in all of our radio & television projects.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is mandatory. Any unexcused absence will result in the loss of a letter grade from your final semester grade. This includes full class meetings as well as game day assignments.

**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.

**After Hours Access:**

For after hours access to Don Anderson Hall, complete and submit this form online: <http://jour.umt.edu/after-hours/> . Complete only one request form per semester, be sure to list all courses you are taking. Codes will remain active until the last day of the semester.

**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/](http://www.umt.edu/dss/).

**Grading Policy:**

We will use the (+/-) grading system for this semester.

Organization/Preparation:	30%
Announcing Performance:	35% (point system will be outlined in class)
Peer Review Responsibility:	25%
Class Participation:	10%

**JRNL 391 Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)****Mon. Jan. 4th:**

Listening to examples. Concept of a story, developing story lines. Research & Preparation. Assign teams. Radio vs. Television. Give game schedules. Start prep.

**Tues. Jan. 5th:**

Set-up Soundcloud/Twitter accounts. Equipment review. In-class test recordings. Guest speakers Mick Holien & Greg Sundberg, UM radio announcers.

**Wed. Jan. 6th :**

Keeping accurate statistics. Review preparations for first games. Guest speaker Bill Schwanke, former voice of Griz/local announcer, talk game preparation and keeping statistics.

**Thurs. Jan. 7th:**

Game Day. Equipment checkout only.

**Fri. Jan. 8th :**

In class review of game performances. Listen to radio games and watch television game. Emphasis on basic game information.

**Mon. Jan. 11th :**

In class review of game performances. Discuss player identification + court description techniques. Evaluations (2 games) due by end of day.

**Tues. Jan. 12th :**

Game Day. Equipment checkout only.

**Wed. Jan. 13th :**

In class review of game performances. Listening to next set of games. End of first rotation of jobs, more analysis of first attempts at different roles.

**Thurs. Jan. 14th :**

Game day. Equipment checkout only.

**Fri. Jan. 15th :**

In class review of game performances. Beginning second rotation of jobs, listening for points of improvement in each area.

**Mon. Jan. 18th :**

HOLIDAY. Evaluations (next 2 games) due by end of day.

**Tues. Jan. 19th :**

Game Day. Equipment checkout only.

**Wed. Jan. 20th:**

In class review of game performances. Remaining games left both radio and television.

**Thurs. Jan. 21st:**

SUPER SPECTACULAR Final Exam. Details will be provided.

**Fri. Jan. 22nd:**

Review final exam plus any remaining games, either radio or television. Final game evaluations due by end of weekend.