RTV 450.01: Senior Project - Broadcast Newsroom

Raymond G. Ekness

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Scope: This is an advanced broadcast class, with strong emphasis on producing, writing, directing and production. You will be responsible for daily news updates that air on PBS all across Montana. You will each have an opportunity to fill the many different roles including director, anchor, reporter, photographer, editor, cg operator, producer, etc. You will also be responsible for producing Montana Journal, a half-hour magazine-format program that also airs statewide on PBS. You will also produce a weekly edition of UM News, a weekly update of what’s happening on campus.

Class Time: The class meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2:10-3:00 in PAR-TV 150 (the studio). Lab time is scheduled from 3:30-5pm Monday through Friday. You will use the lab time for newsbrief production M-F, and UM News production on Thursday. Beginning September 16\textsuperscript{th}, you will meet during only one class period per week. Monday, students assigned to PBS Newsbrief will meet. Wednesday, UM News students will meet. And on Friday, those assigned to Montana Journal will meet. Occasionally we will all meet together. Please check the attached class schedule.

Instructors: Ray Ekness, assistant professor, Journalism/Radio-Television.
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Grades: Grades will be based on your ability to meet deadlines, teamwork, class participation, writing, shooting, editing, producing and research. You will be given a grade each week for newsbrief and UM News work and one grade for each Montana Journal segment you work on.

PBS Newsbrief Work-30% of final grade
Montana Journal Work-30% of final grade
UM News Work-30% of final grade
Attitude/Class Participation-10% of final grade

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. We reserve the right to require students with unexcused absences to drop the course.
PBS News Brief

These 90-second nightly news updates air over KUFM in Missoula and KUSM in Bozeman and are seen across the state. Students are responsible for all aspects of production. The daily deadlines are as follows:

12:00-Producer has preliminary story ideas, rundown and graphics list approved by instructor
2:00-Producer has copy approved by instructor
2:00-Reporter gives scripts/raw tape to editor
3:00-Producer gives director graphics list
3:00-Producer submits list of supers to cg operator
3:30-Instructor approves final rundown, scripts and graphics
3:30-Producer gives final rundown and scripts to crew members
3:45-Edited tapes given to VTR operator
4:15-Taping begins
4:40-Taped update fed to KUSM
UM News

Each week, the class will produce a news segment entitled UM News. The 3-4 minute program will air during the Thursday morning newscast on KECI-TV. You will also produce a 1:00 version of the same show which will air on Thursday’s 6pm newscast on KECI. 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. Students assigned to the show will meet with the director and producer at 2:10-3:00 on Mondays. At 3:00 on Monday, instructors will meet with the producer and director for a progress report. The show will be taped on Wednesday after newsbrief is taped.

Wednesday (week before air): Assignments determined in class

Monday: Final rundowns approved by instructor
        Final scripts approved and given to editors

Tuesday 3pm: Graphics, videotape approved by instructors.

Wednesday 4:45pm (following MontanaPBS Newsbrief)-UM News taping
Montana Journal

Montana Journal is a half-hour program featuring 3-5 minute news stories of interest to people across Montana. You will each be responsible for producing at least one segment for one of the programs. Each program will have a topic chosen by the students working on that program. Only the best segments will air. You will be responsible for all the production on these half-hour programs. Deadlines are as follows:

Montana Journal I-
Sept. 8: Story ideas due including written research and class presentation
Sept. 10: Stories assigned
Sept. 22: Video and interviews shot
Sept. 24: First draft of script to instructor
Sept. 26: Second draft of script to instructor
Sept. 29: First edit complete
Oct. 3: Final edit and updated script complete
Oct. 10: Final post-production complete

Montana Journal II-
Oct. 8: Story ideas due including written research and class presentation
Oct. 10: Stories assigned
Oct. 20: Video and interviews shot
Oct. 22: First draft of script to instructor
Oct. 27: Second draft of script to instructor
Oct. 29: First edit complete
Nov. 3: Final edit and updated script complete
Nov. 10: Final post-production complete

Montana Journal III-
Nov. 12: Story ideas due including written research and class presentation
Nov. 14: Stories assigned
Nov. 24: Video and interviews shot
Nov. 26: First draft of script to instructor
Dec. 3: Second draft of script to instructor
Dec. 8: First edit complete
Dec. 10: Final edit and updated script complete
Nov. 17: Final post-production complete
RTV 450
Course Outline (Subject to Change)
A2003

Wednesday, September 3
Welcome
Class/Work Schedules
Phone/e-mail lists
Syllabus
Program Schedules
Editing/Equipment Checkout and Responsibilities
ASSIGNMENT-Story Ideas for Montana Journal #601
ASSIGNMENT-The "Look" of our programs

Friday, September 5
Assignments and Duties-all shows
DUE-The "Look"
UM News and MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Monday, September 8
Final Decision on Newsbrief Look/Set and UM News Look and Set
Montana Journal Story Ideas and Presentations

Wednesday, September 10
Assign Montana Journal Story Ideas
Review MontanaPBS Newsbrief
Preview UM News

Friday, September 12
Review UM News and MontanaPBS Newsbrief
Montana Journal Progress Report
UM News Meeting

Monday, September 15
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, September 17
UM News Meeting

Friday, September 19
Montana Journal & Montana PBS Newsbrief Meeting

Monday, September 22
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, September 24
UM News Meeting

Friday, September 26
Montana Journal Meeting

Monday, September 29
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting
Wednesday, October 1  
UM News Meeting

Friday, October 3  
Montana Journal Meeting

Monday, October 6  
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, October 8  
UM News Meeting

Friday, October 10  
Meeting for all prior to shift changes  
View Montana Journal #501  
Montana Journal Story Ideas & Presentations

Monday, October 13  
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, October 15  
UM News Meeting

Friday, October 17  
***No class. J-school retreat***

Monday, October 20  
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, October 22  
UM News Meeting

Friday, October 24  
Montana Journal Meeting

Monday, October 27  
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, October 29  
UM News

Friday, October 31  
Montana Journal

Monday, November 3  
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, November 5  
UM News
Friday, November 7
Meeting for all prior to shift changes
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UM News and MontanaPBS Meeting

Monday, November 10
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, November 12
UM News

Friday, November 14
Montana Journal

Monday, November 17
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, November 19
UM News

Friday, November 21
Montana Journal

Monday, November 24
Meeting for all
MontanaPBS Newsbrief, Montana Journal and UM News Meetings

Wednesday, November 26 & Friday, November 28
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY-NO CLASS

Monday, December 1
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, December 3
UM News

Friday, December 5
Montana Journal

Monday, December 8
MontanaPBS Newsbrief Meeting

Wednesday, December 10
UM News

Friday, December 12
NO CLASS

December 16-20
FINALS WEEK

Final Test Period scheduled for
Monday, December 15th 1:10-3:00 pm
View Montana Journal #502