Communication 180: Intro to News Technology

Spring 2024 Room: Fell 52 Tuesday/Thursday 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Instructor: John Plevka

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Office phone: 309-438-7768 Cell phone: 309-231-2380

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2p.m. Other hours by appointment.

# Required Texts:

None

Required reading materials will be shared via Canvas

Students will need phone/tablet with camera, computer to run Adobe software, and internet connectivity. (Students will be provided with Canon DSLR cameras for use in the course.

There is no fee, but all equipment issued must be returned at the end of the semester in workable condition.)

Students will also be responsible for keeping abreast of current events via local and national newspapers and websites.

# Course Objective:

Understand the importance of convergence technology in 21st century journalism Design and populate an effective blogsite

Develop a recurring, themed podcast (six episodes)

Capture and edit audio reports

Take creative and effective news photographs Create and edit dynamic news video

# Expectations:

* Attendance, punctuality and participation are vital. Exceptional participation may be rewarded with extra credit at the discretion of the instructor. Three unexcused absences can result in a letter grade deduction. Current events and topical quizzes may occur at the beginning of some classes. If students are late, they will not be eligible for the potential points.
* Maintain a professional demeanor when working with classmates, instructor and news sources.
* Develop unique and compelling story ideas.
* Develop sound habits when applying grammar and Associated Press Style to all writing assignments.
* Establish and maintain a WordPress (free) account for class-related blogging.
* Establish and maintain class-related YouTube and Sound Cloud accounts.

# Assignments:

All assignments are to be submitted as an attached audio, photo or Word document via Canvas email.

Due to their size, video files will need to be posted to YouTube and student’s blog sites. As is the case in the professional news business, adherence to deadlines is vital. Late work will be penalized. In general, work submitted two weeks or more after the original deadline will not be eligible for points.

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| Scoring system:  Project I (Q&A with classmate RE classmate’s themed podcast) (include photo) | 10% |
| Project II: Photo story (minimum five related photos with explanatory text) (capture audio sound bite) | 10% |
| Project III: Video news story on topic related to student’s themed podcast (minimum four sources) | 10% |
| Project IV: Final -- Multi-media package compiling audio, photo and video content generated by student throughout semester (audio, photo and video elements) | 20% |
| Blogsite account maintenance (as assigned) | 10% |
| Themed podcasts (Six total episodes, at least two with guest) | 15% |
| Homework projects | 15% |
| In-Class assignments and participation | 10% |
|  | 100% |

# Extra Credit:

A wide variety of extra credit opportunities will be made available throughout the semester. Most will be announced we in advances of deadlines, but some extra credit points will be awarded at the instructor’s discretion for exceptional participation in class discussions or clear examples of extra on course-related content.

# Grading System:

90%+ A 80%+ B 70%+ C 60%+ D 59%- F

# Using Technology in Class:

During class, computers and/or personal devices should be used for assignments and class- related discussions only. Period.

# Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Those consequences range from probation to expulsion. If the student is unclear about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quotes or collaborations, the student should consult the instructor. Plagiarism will result in a zero grade for the assignment, and the incident must be reported to the Office of the Provost.

# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.

# Recording of Class and/or lectures sample statements

Full Denial to record

Students may not photograph or use audio or video devices to record classroom lectures or discussions or visual materials that accompany them (e.g., lecture slides, whiteboard notes/equations). Students with disabilities who need to record classroom lectures or discussions must contact Student Access and Accommodation Services to register, request and be approved for an accommodation. Students who violate this policy may be subject to both legal sanctions for violations of copyright law and disciplinary action under the University’s Code of Student Conduct.

# Permission required to record

Students must obtain written permission from the instructor if they wish either to photograph classroom lectures or discussions or to record them using audio or video devices. This restriction includes visual materials that accompany the lecture/discussion, such as lecture slides, whiteboard notes/equations, etc. Such recordings are to be used solely for the purposes of individual or group study with other students enrolled in the class in that semester. They may not be reproduced, shared in any way (including electronically or posting in any web environment) with those not in the class in that semester. Students with disabilities who need to record classroom lectures or discussions must contact Student Access and Accommodation Services to register, request and be approved for an accommodation. Students who violate this policy may be subject to both legal sanctions for violations of copyright law and disciplinary action under the University’s Code of Student Conduct.

# Mental Health Resources

Life at college can get very complicated. According to recent research, nearly 40% of college students are atrisk

for developing generalized anxiety disorder and are less likely to seek help for it compared to other mental

health issues. Students also sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience depression, and struggle with

relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed

with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life

stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors,

who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out

more at Counseling.IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-3655.

# Illinois State University Bereavement Policy

If a student experiences a death of an immediate family member or relative as defined below, the student will

be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. The student

will provide appropriate documentation and arrange to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible

according to the process outlined below.

Upon notification of the absence and proper documentation, each faculty member shall excuse the student

from class according to this policy and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other

required work. Ultimately, the student is responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each

individual professor as soon as they return to complete any required work. Details can be found at the

following website: <http://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27.shtml>