

Com 398.01 Section 002 Professional Practice – Fall 2019

Instructor: Bob Carroll

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Fell 024

Office Hours: Monday 10:00 to 11:00am, Thursday 12:30 am to 1:30 am. Other times available by appointment. I can usually be found in the news room, studio, or my office every morning until the noon news cast.

Office: 438-7780

Home: 662-6813

Cell: (309) 242-6719

News Room: 438-5481

Control Room: 438-7930

News Director: 438-5484

Com 398 is a variable credit professional practice, which can be repeated for credit multiple semesters. It is designed to give students the opportunity to build on television production skills learned in Com 263 and previous semesters of 398. Students will primarily work as news/sports photographers for TV10 News as they focus on shooting, editing, and story telling for local television news. Students will also start to take on advanced production projects. In addition to one lecture each week, students are required to work photog, graphic, and control room shifts each week. Shifts are based on credit, experience, and availability. During the photog shift, photographers will shoot and edit news and sports stories in and around Bloomington/Normal. Shifts will be scheduled with the student, and may be in the morning, afternoon, or evening. A three-credit-hour student should work a minimum of two studio shifts per week (more are encouraged.) Each photographer is required to work one weekend shift over the course of the semester.

- Students will demonstrate a substantial increase in general knowledge of Mass Media
- Students will demonstrate ability to write professionally
- Students will demonstrate evidence of professional competence in sequence-specific technical skills

Classroom meeting (3-3:50 pm Wednesday)

This meeting will involve lecture, discussion and practical experience. Some class sessions will be held jointly with journalism interns; others will be held separately. Students will watch examples of TV-10 and other newscasts, to review writing, interviewing, generating ideas, selecting soundbites, stand-ups, live shots and more. Some time will be spent in the edit bay and studio, to improve performance skills. Students will also work on improving resumes and cover letters and will update and improve their online portfolio.

Course Policies:

Photographers must dress neatly and appropriately when working a shift (business casual suggested). You will be sent out in all weather conditions. Dress appropriately for the weather. Heavy lifting may be required.

Studio shifts will be posted for each week on the bulletin board in the control room. Assignments will change so that production students gain experience in all positions.

Ask questions... individual instruction and assistance will be given to any student that asks. I will be happy to look at anything shot or edited and give feedback.

Alcohol or drug use during a news shift is not permitted.

Any equipment problems must be written up on the appropriate form and submitted to the engineer. If you have a question on how to operate a piece of equipment, ask me. If the equipment is broken (i.e., a tape is stuck in a deck), then ask the engineer for assistance. Photographers are responsible for keeping the TV10 news car clean and gassed.

If you are on a shoot and have a question about how best to shoot it, or have a problem with you equipment, call me on my cell (309) 242-6719. If there is a question about your assignment, call the producer on duty or the News Director. Please make a note of all phone numbers listed above. If you have a cell phone, it is suggested that you enter the numbers in your phone.

All media must be labeled correctly and stored in the correct folder on the RAID.

Headphones will be required for all photo shoots and are recommended for editing. I would highly recommend that everyone have a USB2 hard drive or Flash Drive. This will save you a great deal of headache and allow you to save projects.

Evaluation and Projects:

At mid-term and the end of the semester students will be required to compile examples of their work. These pieces will be submitted in digital format. They will be critiqued by the student and then critiqued and graded by the instructor. There may be quizzes during the course of the semester. Most will be practical, but a few may be written. There will be a final project. This project will be individualized to the hopeful career path of the student. There will also be a final portfolio website. **Due Finals week when you schedule your meeting with me.**

All assignments must be turned in on time. Any assignments turned in late will be docked 10% for the first day, 50% for the second day. No assignments will be accepted more than two days late.

Evaluation

Students will be assessed on how they are progressing, based on where they started, and what they are trying to achieve. This is a holistic grade, based on the bulk of the work, not on any one individual piece or experience.

Progress/Improvement		50 points
Resume	Due Week 12	15 points
Montage (or alternative)	Due Week 14	15 points
Final Online Portfolio	Due Finals Week	25 points

Shift attendance 25 points

Grading of shift attendance:

You can miss up to 2 times, provided that faculty is notified

In addition, you can be late up to 2 times, provided that faculty is notified

(Late = 10 minutes past the start of shift)

-5 points for every incidence of lateness after 2

Missing a shift without notification– all points forfeited

Class attendance 20 points

Grading of class attendance:

You can miss class 1 time with no penalty

-10 points off for missing 2 classes (provided faculty is notified)

-20 points off for missing 3 or more classes

Final Project 50 points

Total points: 150

Final grade is on a 90/80/70/60 scale

Notes for current or future Mass Media majors

Portfolio Artifacts--One of the culminating experiences of a mass media degree is the completion of COM 396 Mass Media Capstone, a course that includes the preparation of a personal portfolio to organize and showcase your abilities. I encourage you to retain items from this class, whether produced independently or in groups, for inclusion as portfolio artifacts. Beyond the Capstone class, your portfolio may also prove a valuable tool as you seek entry into a graduate program or employment in your areas of specialization.

Absence due to Illness or Bereavement

If you have to miss class due to an extended illness (3 or more consecutive class days) or a bereavement, the Dean of Students Office can help. It's located in Room 387, Student Services Building.

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.