

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF TELEVISION AND RADIO
Fall 2014**

Professor Barbara Nevins Taylor

TV (Video) Reporting TVRA 4728
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Class meets Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Room 307 A Whitehead

Prerequisite: 3871 or 3728 with the permission of the chairperson

Office Hours:

Mondays 2:30-3:30 in 406 Whitehead.

Tuesdays 3:00-6:30 in 406 Whitehead.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This class gives you the opportunity to apply and build on the crafts that you learned in many of your previous courses. The rapidly evolving media world demands that we update our mission and consider how to tell a video story on multiple platforms and incorporate the latest digital tools.

Regardless of the tool, or the platform, the fundamental ethical and intellectual principles remain the same.

The best journalistic storytelling demands honesty, clarity and relevance. These core values separate the video journalist from crowdsourcers, bedroom bloggers and fire escape tweeters.

We want you to learn to identify news stories and produce accurate, well-written video reports. You'll use your skills as a researcher, reporter, on-camera talent, video photographer and editor to create and present stories that might appear on a professional newscast, on an established website or on other professional digital media outlets. Some of you are more advanced than others, and you have an opportunity to use this class to improve your reporting, writing and storytelling and create a solid reel.

The magazine *City Limits* features a Brooklyn web page, and if you produce quality stories they may use your work on the site. There are also other opportunities that we're developing to showcase your work professionally. All of the video reports that meet the department standards will be posted on the Brooklyn News Service website.

TEXTS

Broadcast News Writing & Stylebook, Fifth Edition, by Robert A. Papper, published by Pearson.

We will also use *A Writer's Reference*, 2007, by Diana Hacker, published by Bedford/St.Martins.

The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez Or, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. Both books are available in paperback and online.

Please signup for a digital version of the *New York Times*. The Brooklyn College Library arranged for us to get it for free. You must sign in with your Brooklyn College Outlook email. You must register through Outlook. Here's the link that takes you where you need to go.

http://library.brooklyn.cuny.edu/resources/?view=fullRecord&res_id=4677

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

I'll provide additional reading material and post it on Blackboard, or provide it in class.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Please bring audio headsets to class so that you can concentrate on your work without disturbing your classmates. You'll also need the headsets when you are working in the field.

It's also a good idea to purchase at least a 500GB portable hard drive to save your work from week to week. Don't count on your work remaining on the desktop. You may also use a USB flash drive. But be aware that it holds a limited amount of material.

WORDPROCESSING

All of your work must be written on a word processor.

VIEWING AND LISTENING

It is important to begin to watch and view videos as professionals. Please watch local and network news broadcasts as well as CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, or BBC and Al-Jazeera at least twice a week.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

We like mobile devices. But we also need your focus in class. You're expected to turn off phones and devices when class starts. The work in TVRA 4728 requires your complete attention. Please keep your laptops closed unless we are using them for class.

We'll be viewing and analyzing the work of classmates and your courtesy and participation is required. Please remember that criticism is not a personal attack. We talk about the work and professional growth.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Broadcasting is a deadline business and this is a chance to begin to develop good habits. We'll treat our class professionally as we would treat a job in broadcasting, so you are expected to attend all classes. Please arrive on time. Your attendance, punctuality, and class participation will be considered in your grade. If there is an emergency and you cannot attend a class, please email me. If you are absent four times, you will fail.

Students who must miss class or must be late because of religious beliefs will be accommodated. Please see page 53 in the Brooklyn College Bulletin for details about religious beliefs and state law.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Copying someone else's work is plagiarism. It is unacceptable in journalism or in the media. In some cases it is considered a criminal act. It is unacceptable at Brooklyn College. The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. If you have a question about plagiarism, please speak with me. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bcpolicies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity, and upon investigation confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

CENTER FOR STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Mrs. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide me with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation needs with me.

DEPARTMENT eGROUP

Please join the department listserv to get the latest information about important news for Television and Radio Majors. This is the place to find out about scholarships, internships, guest speakers, and our events. Send a blank message to: bctvr-majors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Students nearing graduation should join the department's jobs listserv. Send a blank message to: TVR Jobs-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED BY THE COURSE

3. Students will learn the basic aesthetic, and technical principles of electronic media productions and their broader implications.
5. Students will learn to research and write stories, proposals and treatments that meet professional standards.
8. Students will learn to analyze issues and controversies from ethical, legal, and social perspectives in their professional practices.
9. Students will learn to research, report, and write news materials.

ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. We will identify stories to report, and review the techniques of video photography and video editing. Students will learn storytelling skills and techniques for broadcasting, the web and other digital media. (DO5)
2. Students will report, write and produce stories that meet professional broadcast and digital standards. (DO3, DO5, DO8)
3. Students will build on what they've learned and identify, report, and produce a second flight of stories. (DO3, DO5, DO8)

4. Students will identify, report and produce a third, and perhaps a fourth flight of stories. (DO3, DO5, DO8)
5. Students will work on writing and presentation for anchoring and live reporting. (DO3, DO5, DO8)
6. Students will write web versions of their reports with the appropriate links. (DO5)

LATE AND INCOMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS

If your assignments are late or incomplete, you will have to consult with me to make special provisions for shooting, writing and editing.

GRADES

Attendance	Required
Punctuality	Required
Reading	Required
Class Assignments	25%
Field Reporting	25%
Writing and Editing	25%
Presentation	25%

ACTIVITY	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Participation	The student is absent from class, is always late, does not pay attention, and does not engage in discussions.	The student regularly attends class, is prompt, pays attention, and is attentive.	The student regularly attends class, is prompt, is enthusiastic about the class and frequently engages in discussion.

ACTIVITY	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
<p>Generating story ideas, setting up interviews, demonstrating mastery of camera and editing techniques.</p>	<p>The student doesn't present story ideas, doesn't set up interviews, and fails to demonstrate mastery of camera and editing techniques.</p>	<p>The student presents story ideas, sets up interviews, and displays mastery of camera and editing techniques</p>	<p>The student presents story ideas, demonstrates insight and understanding. The student sets up hard-to-get interviews, and demonstrates a professional understanding of camera and editing techniques.</p>
<p>Shooting video and editing.</p>	<p>The student fails to shoot video, edit and deliver assignments by the deadline.</p>	<p>The student shoots the video, edits and delivers all assignments on time, and meets the standards.</p>	<p>The student shoots the video with insight and understanding, edits according to professional standards and delivers all assignments on time, and exceeds expectations.</p>

ACTIVITY	DOES NOT MEET EXPECTATIONS	MEETS EXPECTATIONS	EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Producing video reports	The student fails to deliver the assignment. The student fails to write clearly or grammatically, and fails to organize the material to produce a video report.	The student delivers the assignment on time. The student writes clearly, grammatically, and masters editing techniques in order to create a video report.	The student delivers the assignment on time, and writes creatively, grammatically, shoots and edits well, and creates a strong professional level video report, and exceeds expectations.
Presenting video reports.	The student is not prepared to present a story on camera.	The student is prepared for an on-camera performance. The student handles the on-camera appearance professionally.	The student is prepared for an on-camera performance, handles it professionally, and exceeds expectations.

Class Schedule

Wednesday January 28

Welcome, introduction and syllabus overview.

You'll write a short broadcast style essay that answers the following questions:

Who am I?

Where am I from?

Where am I going?

We'll discuss basic journalistic principles, and the elements and language of a TV news story and video stories that appear on digital platforms. We'll view examples.

We'll discuss the importance of accuracy and details.

We'll review journalistic ethics and copyright issues for broadcast.

We'll use participatory demonstrations to illustrate how reporting is done correctly and how easy it is to become confused about information that you receive.

We'll discuss what makes a news story and identify stories that we want to report.

We'll discuss the importance of character driven stories.

We'll review the Television Center's policies and guidelines.

We'll have a camera and basic shooting review.

Homework: Read: *The Story of A Shipwrecked Sailor*. Additional reading from Papper may be assigned.

Wednesday February 4

News Quiz

We'll discuss the latest news.

There will be a short quiz on the reading, the ethics discussion from the first class.

We'll review what makes a strong video report and view examples. We'll examine how to use characters to tell a story.

We'll review active writing and grammar for broadcast and video reporting. We'll discuss stories and the elements that are required to create a video news report. We'll identify individual stories that you'll report and outline what's required for set-ups.

We'll review interview techniques with a classroom exercise.

We'll review the proper protocols for shooting interviews and video to illustrate our stories.

Homework: Reading from Papper may be assigned. Set up stories. Additional research may be assigned.

Wednesday February 11

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll review elements of covering breaking news and view examples. The quiz will include questions about the news.

We'll also review the protocols for shooting interviews and b-roll. If your stories are set up, you'll begin to shoot

We'll discuss freeing your voice.

Homework: Begin to shoot your stories. Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday February 18 Convergence Day Class Follow Monday Schedule

Wednesday February 25

News Quiz and discussion.

We'll review story structure and logic. We'll also review the format and language for TV scripts.

We'll examine ways to use digital tools to enhance storytelling.

Live Reporting with Google Hangouts or the Padcaster.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz. The quiz will include questions about the news.

You'll transfer and log your video and begin to outline your reports. If you're ready, you'll write your script.

Homework: Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday March 4
Your first stories are due.

News Quiz and discussion.

We'll discuss investigative reporting and view examples.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

How to use and make graphics for your video stories.

Each of you will write a lead for your report.
We'll learn how to post the stories on a website.

We'll identify new stories for the second reports and begin to research and set them up.

Homework: Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday March 11

News Quiz and discussion.

We'll discuss reporting on government and business, and how to turn a dry story into a good video report.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz. The quiz will include questions about the news.

We'll explore live reporting using digital tools including a Google Hangout.

We'll discuss your second stories and set-ups. We'll begin to report the second stories.

Homework: Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned

Wednesday March 18

News Quiz and discussion.

We'll talk about enterprise reporting and view examples.
You'll continue to report and work on your second flight of stories.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz. The quiz will include questions about the news.

Homework continue to work on your stories.

Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday March 25

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll discuss crime and legal reporting and view examples.

You'll continue to work on your second stories. You'll shoot and transfer video.

Homework: Continue to work on your story.

Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned

Wednesday April 1

Happy April Fool's Day.

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll discuss health and medical reporting and continue to work on your second stories.

You'll continue to shoot and transfer video and create an outline for your scripts. If you're ready, you'll write your scripts and begin to edit.

Homework: Continue to work on your story.

Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned

Wednesday April 8
No Class Spring Break.

Wednesday April 15

Your second stories are due.

News Quiz and Discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll discuss reporting about weather, the environment, natural phenomena and view examples.

You'll write lead-ins for your stories and we'll identify your third stories.

Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday April 22

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll view non-traditional stories and alternative video storytelling venues.

You'll begin to research and report your third stories.

Reading from Papper and other sources may be assigned.

Wednesday April 29

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll discuss sports reporting and view and discuss examples.

You'll transfer video and write the outline and script for your third story.

You'll begin to edit.

Wednesday May 8
Your third stories are due.

News Quiz and discussion.

If reading was assigned, there will be a short quiz.

We'll review the challenges of reporting and view examples of reporters overcoming obstacles.

You'll complete the final story and we'll post the stories to the web.

Wednesday May 12

We'll review our work during the semester and complete unfinished projects.

Wednesday May 20

FINALS

ENJOY!