
Course Syllabus

College of Arts & Sciences, Barry University
Department of Communication
Radio and Television Broadcast Reporting – COM 318

General Course Information

Term: Fall 2025
Course Title: Radio and Television Broadcast Reporting
Course Number: COM 318

Instructor Contact

Instructor: Professor Constance Simmons
Office Location: James Gardner Hall/ Adjunct Office
Office Hours: By appointment or Remote
E-mail Address: csimmons@barry.edu
Office Hours: In-Person 4-5pm Monday & Remote

Catalog Description

Researching, writing, taping, and editing news stories for radio, television, and the internet. Includes discussion and application of gatekeeping functions, story selection, and story-order in a newscast.

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare students for professional careers in radio, television, and streaming media by emphasizing industry standards in on-air delivery, news writing, and production. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the distinct oral communication styles required in broadcasting, exploring the differences between radio and television presentation. Through hands-on training in actual in-studio environments, students will develop skills essential for roles such as news producer, anchor, reporter, and photojournalist. Coursework includes advanced news writing, story analysis, and the production of news content for television, streaming platforms, and radio.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Generate, interpret, and present scripted and unscripted (ad-lib) material for radio, television, and streaming media.
- Use their voice effectively for clarity, projection, and audience engagement.
- Compile a professional demo reel with recorded audio and video samples.
- Identify and define elements that make a story newsworthy.
- Demonstrate proper broadcast script writing techniques and formatting.

- Produce news stories for radio, television, internet, and streaming platforms.
- Shoot and edit video content to create compelling visual narratives.
- Conduct professional interviews using research, questioning, and active listening skills.

Learning Methods

Students must access Canvas daily to review announcements, due dates, rubrics, and detailed assignment instructions. Instruction will include videoconference lectures, assigned readings, threaded discussions, and the writing and production of news packages for radio, television, and internet platforms. Student-produced media packages will be shared through video recordings or videoconferencing for class critiques. News executives and reporters will also serve as guest speakers, offering valuable, real-world insights into the broadcasting industry. Students are expected to read the assigned textbook and complete all assignments on time.

5. Grading Policy/ Scale

Grading Scale

Letter	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	70-76
D	60-69
F	0-59

Grading Assignments: Posted on Canvas

Assignments	Points/Percentage
Participation	100 possible points / 10%
Assignments (6)	600 possible points / 60%
Case Studies (5)	300 possible points / 30%
Total:	1,000 total possible points

Assignments

Discussions: Discussion points are based on in-class participation. This includes adding valuable input related to the week's readings and assignments. These points are only available to students who show up to class and participate. If you are not present, you will not be eligible to receive these points.

Case Studies: Case studies will ask students to answer a specific question using real life examples of concepts learned in the current module. Students are expected to evaluate examples of professional TV and Radio announcing and give their feedback based on chapter

objectives. Each case study report should be a minimum of 400 words. Case studies should be written using APA formatting and should include a reference page.

Assignments: A total of 6 assignments will be due over the course of the semester. Each assignment is designed to give the student the opportunity to practice specific announcing skills learned in the class. Each assignment will be recorded on a recording device and uploaded to a free website such as YouTube or Vimeo. A final script must be turned in to accompany the recording.

Final Project: At the end of the semester, each student will submit a final project related to the course material. The final assignment will be recorded on a recording device and uploaded to a free website such as youtube or vimeo. A final script must be turned in to accompany the recording.

Course Policies and Procedures

Late Work/Make-Up Assignments:

Late assignments will be deducted 10% per 24-hours submitted late. Assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59pm. After 7 days an assignment is no longer eligible for points. If there are extenuating circumstances preventing you from getting your assignment turned in on time, contact me ASAP (preferably ahead of deadlines rather than after). Extensions or make-up work are not guaranteed, but I will do my best to work with you depending on your circumstance and needs.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required in this class. As a participatory course, missing class will hinder your comprehension of the material and your ability to complete weekly projects successfully. Being present means attending the entire class session and actively participating. Coming in late disrupts the learning process; therefore, the classroom doors will be closed after 14 minutes, and anyone arriving later will be marked absent.

According to the Attendance Policy of the School of Communication, you will receive a **W**, **WP**, or **WF** (within the withdrawal period) or an **F** (outside the withdrawal period) after your sixth absence. In other words, upon your third absence, you may be withdrawn from the class or receive a failing grade. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw during the designated period; failure to do so will result in an automatic **F**.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating and Plagiarism

1. Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations.
2. Plagiarism is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgment, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker.

Students are expected to know and abide by the policy as stated in the university catalogue and student handbook.

Disability Statement

Students with documented special learning needs may want to contact the Barry University Office of Accessibility Services 305-899-3489. Accommodations might include: Adaptive technology, enlargers, textbook scanning, e-book adaptation.

Student Behavior

All Barry University students are expected to behave according to accepted norms that ensure a climate wherein all can exercise their right to learn. Such norms are set forth in the undergraduate catalogue under College of Arts and Sciences Guidelines for Student Conduct and Academic Responsibility. Please be sure that you have read and understood that section. No faculty member will tolerate classroom behavior that violates these norms. Such behavior will be grounds for withdrawal from the class, judicial proceedings, or failure of the course. If warranted, students engaging in such behavior will be removed from class by security personnel and may be required to undergo counseling.

Students attending class remotely must adhere to the same class conduct rules. Students are required to contribute to a class environment conducive to growth and mutual respect.

Learning Management System (Canvas)

Students are provided with guides and online ticketing services when a Learning Management System (LMS) issue arises. To access the 24/7 help desk and resources, access the Help option by clicking on the question mark icon in the global navigation bar on the left side of your course page.

Course Outline/ Schedule

	Radio and Television Broadcast Reporting	Week
August 25 th	Welcome and Course Overview <i>What is Newsworthy?</i>	1
Sept 1 st	Module 1: News Basics Assignment: Case Study 1: Sasha Example <i>Labor Day/ Holiday</i>	2
Sept 8 th	Module 2: What makes a good story? Assignment: Case Study 2: News Article Review use the SIX Essential Elements Rubric to complete	3
Sept 15 th	Module 3: Producing News Stories Assignment: Write Vos & VO/SOTs (Assignment 1)	4
Sept 22 nd	Module 4: Shooting Basics Assignment: Case Study 3: VO/SOT Analysis Gather B-Roll for upcoming assignment	5
Sept 29 th	Module 5: Editing Basics Assignment: Edit VO (Assignment 2)	6

	Guest Speaker: <i>Layron Livingston, Emmy-nominated Anchor, Investigator & Story-Teller</i>	
Oct 6 th	Module 6: The Art of the Interview Assignment: Schedule & Conduct Interview (Assignment 3) Guest Speaker: <i>Daniela Zulueta, Founder of Lifestyle Miami, Multimedia Journalist</i>	7
Oct 13 th	Module 7: Choose Soundbites Assignment: Write and Edit VO/SOT (Assignment 4) <i>Indigenous People/ Columbus Day/ Holiday</i>	8
Oct 20 th	Module 8: What is a PKG? Assignment: Case Study 4: News Pkg Analysis Guest Speaker: <i>Zach Aldridge, CBS Sports Anchor/Host</i>	9
Oct 27 th	Module 9: Story Flow Assignment: Plan PKG Interviews	10
Nov 3 rd	Module 10: Press Releases & other Sources Assignment: Continue working on PKG Case Study 5: News Pkg Analysis	11
Nov 10 th	Module 11: Stand Ups & Bridges Assignment: Shooting B-Roll and Stand Ups	12
Nov 17 th	Module 12: Live Shots Assignment: Writing your PKG Guest Speaker: <i>Natalie Kalibat, ESPN+ Broadcaster, American Athletic Conference, USA Diving, Podcaster</i>	13
Nov 24 th	Module 13: Editing for PKGs Assignment: Edit your PKG (Assignment 6)	14
Dec 1 st	Module 14: Final Resume Reel Assignment: Edit reel today	15
Dec 8 th	Module 15: Watch Final PKGs	16

*Course schedule is tentative. The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline throughout the term to best fit the content of the lecture material. Announcements will be made in class regarding outline adjustments as needed.

