

CN 3416 RADIO NEWS WRITING
(Updated: Fall 2015)

LEVEL 5

UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES: WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics
CN 2202 Writing for Mass Communication
CN 3311 Fundamentals of Print Journalism

**CATALOG
DESCRIPTION:**

The differences between print and radio in terms of audience expectations and receptivity. Writing for the voice and the ear. Preparing, writing and delivering news copy and field reports. Taping interviews. Adapting the voice to broadcast.

RATIONALE:

This course trains students to write radio stories quickly and briefly. It also teaches them to develop longer story ideas: to research, write, and voice well-structured, balanced and accurate reports. It is useful for students who want a career in journalism or other field where the ability to write short, sharp copy for radio is valued.

**LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Write stories in which they report information clearly, briefly and precisely in a writing style appropriate to radio newscasts.
2. Identify editorial comments when compiling news from prepared sources, and understand the need to cross-check sources for accuracy and reliability.
3. Identify interesting stories, conduct elementary field investigations and other research, and produce stories written for the voice and ear.
4. Apply their voice to engage audiences and contribute to the effective communication of stories.
5. Conduct recorded interviews from which clear, meaningful actualities can be extracted for inclusion in stories.
6. Employ story structures and language devices appropriate to radio feature reporting.

**METHOD OF
TEACHING
AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the learning and teaching strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Class lectures and discussions, airing and analysis of radio news recordings, and in-class group work.
- Presentation of homework assignments in class.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, see their exam paper, and/or go over lecture material.
- Use of a Blackboard site where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.
- Peer tutoring is also available to students who choose to get additional help.

ASSESSMENT:

In-class writing/voice exercises, online news reports – formative	0	News writing exercises and voice coaching
Field report proposal – formative	0	Students identify and focus field report ideas and explain how they will conduct field production
Field report – summative	70	Edited field report (2.5 to 4 minutes)
midterm examination (1-hour) – summative	30	Short-answer questions / editing and writing exercises

Formative assessment is designed to test students' comprehension of basic principles and their ability to put plan and put them into practice

The field report examines learning outcomes 3-6

The midterm examination examines learning outcomes 1 and 2

READING LIST:

1. Required Textbook:

Wulfemeyer, Tim K. *Beginning Radio and TV Newswriting: A Self-Instructional Learning Experience*, 5th edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Radio news story recordings (available electronically).

2. Further Reading:

Crouse, Chuck. *Reporting for Radio*, Bonus Books, 1992.

Fleming, Carole. *The Radio Handbook*, 3rd ed., Routledge, 2010

Hyde, Stuart. *Television and Radio Announcing*, 11th ed., Houghton-Mufflin, 2008.

Wulfemeyer, Tim K. *Radio-TV Newswriting: A Workbook*, 2nd edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:

Block, Mervin. *Writing Broadcast News - Shorter, Sharper, Stronger*, 3rd edition, CQ Press, 2011.

WWW RESOURCES:

www.newscript.com
www.advancingthestory.com
www.bbc.co.uk

www.skai.gr
other online radio newscasts

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

MS-Word; reporter's recorder; computer with sound editing software

COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:

All presentations using proper English (oral and written)

INDICATIVE

CONTENT OUTLINE:

1. Distinct Features of Radio
 - 1.1 Intimacy and the distracted audience
 - 1.2 Voice and sound
 - 1.3 Seeing through hearing
2. Writing for the Voice
 - 2.1 Brevity, economy, and precision
 - 2.2 Logical flow and linear writing
 - 2.3 Syntax and word choice; conversational language
 - 2.4 Developing a broadcast voice
3. News Summaries – Writing from Wires
 - 3.1 News values
 - 3.2 Compressing stories
 - 3.3 Using statistics
 - 3.4 Newscast: short bulletins
 - 3.5 Newscast: extended bulletins
4. Production Techniques: Actualities
 - 4.1 Differences between interviewing for print and broadcast
 - 4.1 Interviewing techniques: getting good actualities
 - 4.2 Recording an interview
 - 4.3 Looking for and using actualities
 - 4.4 Preparing a wrap
5. Production Techniques: Voicers and Wraps
 - 5.1 Writing and delivering the voicer
 - 5.2 Writing and delivering the anchor-read newscast
6. Field Reports
 - 6.1 Spotting stories
 - 6.2 Basic investigation and confirming facts
 - 6.3 Right of reply
 - 6.4 Description
 - 6.5. Natural sound
7. Writing and Producing a Story Package
 - 7.1 Planning, investigation, academic research
 - 7.2 Writing
 - 7.3 Production