Audio Storytelling: From Podcasts to Newscasts
(U49 JRN 327)
Term: Fall 2018

Instructor: Bill Raack
E-mail: braack2@yahoo.com
(314) 602-0696
Office Hours: 30 minutes after class and by appointment

Course Description: The principles and techniques of audio storytelling, podcasting and broadcast journalism are applied in a production setting.

Goals: This course will focus on how to develop ideas for podcasts, how to write stories (and news) for the ear, the skills required for effective interviewing and the production and editing of high-quality audio. At the conclusion of this course, you will know what it takes to produce a podcast and a newscast.

Recommended texts:

Out on the Wire: The Storytelling Secrets of the New Masters of Radio, Jessica Abel
Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production, Jonathan Kern

Additional Requirements:

- All assignments must be typed or completed on a computer.
- You are expected to listen to selected podcasts, as well as radio news on a regular basis. The practice will inform you about what is happening in the St. Louis area, as well as trends in the industry.

Course Policies:

- Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. After one absence, you will lose points.
- Deadlines: Assignments will not be accepted after their due date, except in extreme circumstances. If the assignment is not on time, you will not receive credit.
Accuracy: At times, you will be writing news stories. The most important aspect is that they are accurate and truthful. Material that fails to meet this standard will not receive credit.

Grading:

Stories/interviews/other assignments 40%
Midterm & Final 50%
Participation and attendance 10%

Academic integrity: It is highly unprofessional and unethical to copy or plagiarize in academia, although working in groups within the class may be permitted on a joint project or a case-by-case basis. Therefore, if any student is found to have plagiarized in the research paper or cheated on an exam, he or she will be in danger of failing the course.

Disability statement: Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 314-935-4062, located in Cornerstone, Gregg Hall, http://disability.wustl.edu. The DRC is responsible for approving and arranging all accommodations for students.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE:

Week 1 Introduction to course; outline of equipment procedures; basics of audio production; newscast listening assignment.
Week 2 Reading material review; newscast writing; newscast listening assignment due.
Week 3 Newscast due; recording techniques; spot news writing (form and style, timing, etc.); digital editing.
Week 4 Wrap #1 due; covering a press conference; discuss mid-term projects; delivery.
Week 5 Feature reporting; using natural sound to help tell a story; record ambient sound; series reporting.
Week 6 Guest speaker; planning an interview; series reporting.
Week 7  **Midterm assignment (series) due;** field trip.

Week 8  Basics of podcasting; the various types of podcasts; reading material on podcasting discussion.

Week 9  Guest speaker; the basics of interviewing: proper techniques.

Week 10  One-on-one interviews; podcasting listening assignment.

Week 11  **Podcast listening assignment due;** Final project ideas discussed.

Week 12  Ethics of audio production; commentaries.

Week 13  Field trip

Week 14  Putting together a resume and “best of” audio samples for future employers; work on final projects.

Week 15  **Final projects due.**