Instructor: Jason Rosenbaum
573-356-1755
jrosenbaum9@gmail.com

Classroom:

Time: 6 to 8:30 p.m. Monday

General: I do not have an office on campus, so the easiest way to reach me is by e-mail at jrosenbaum9@gmail.com. You can also call me on my cell phone at 573-356-1755. As I work full time at St. Louis Public Radio from Monday to Friday, I may not respond immediately if I’m on an assignment or on deadline. If you need to meet with me in person, the best time would be after class is over or by appointment.

This syllabus is subject to change.

Course description: This course will provide the principles and techniques for a journalist to engage in audio reporting. It also delves into what it takes to create a podcast — and will provide students with the guidance to make podcasts successful.

Additionally, this course discusses some of the ethical parameters of audio reporting, as well as how to report effectively during a crisis situation. By the end of this course, students should have a robust understanding of what it takes to be an audio journalist and to create a successful podcast.

Required texts

Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production, Jonathan Kern

Software suggestions
Part of this class will focus on creating and editing audio stories and podcasts. You can use Adobe CC license so you can edit your projects (https://insideartsci.wustl.edu/adobe-cc-license-faq), but it is not required. You can also use other audio editing programs like Audacity (https://www.audacityteam.org/) or GarageBand (which is loaded onto Apple computers).

**Recording your projects**

Washington University has a podcast studio on the third floor of the Danforth University Center. I will book the studio at certain times for you to record projects that require audio recording. More information about the podcast studio can be found here: https://mediacenter.wustl.edu/studios/podcast-studio/

**Additional requirements**

- All written assignments must be typed or completed on a computer.
- You are expected to list to St. Louis area newscasts and podcasts. Some local podcasts that I would recommend from St. Louis Public Radio (where I work) include *The Gateway, We Live Here and Politically Speaking*. I also recommend listening to national news podcasts like NPR’s *Up First* and The New York Times’ *The Daily*.
- You are expected to attend classes. Missing more than one, with the exceptions of documented medical or family emergencies, will result in a lower participation grade.
- Assignments will not be accepted after a due date, with exceptions of extreme circumstances. If an assignment is not turned in on time, you will not receive credit for it.

**Grading:**

Papers/quizzes/audio stories 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 the course; explanation of equipment and software procedures; Basic tenants of audio reporting and podcasting

WEEK 2: Introductions to newscasts; Exploration into different types of radio reporting; Introduction into spot news reporting

WEEK 3: Spot news assignment due; Reporting during a crisis; Look at different examples of audio reporting during Ferguson;

WEEK 4: Radio feature reporting; Examples of successful feature reporting; Feature reporting assignment

WEEK 5: Basics of interviewing; How to prepare for your big interview; Interview assignment

WEEK 6: Discuss concept of “panel” or “round up” podcasts; How to infuse audio elements into your podcasts; Discussion of midterm project

WEEK 7: Guest speaker; Basics of audio editing

WEEK 8: Midterm project due; Field trip to St. Louis Public Radio

WEEK 9: Exploration into interview-based podcasts; How to prepare and organize an interview-based podcast; Assignment on interview-based podcasts

WEEK 10: Interview exercise; Audio journalism ethics; Ethics writing assignment
WEEK 11: Discussion and review of narrative podcasts; How to tell a story through podcasting; Narrative podcast assignment

WEEK 12: Discussing the business and promotional side of podcasting; How journalism entities have embraced podcasts; Discussion of final project

WEEK 13: Exploration into advanced audio editing techniques; How to infuse ambient sound into your stories and podcasts; Further discussion of final project

WEEK 14: Discussion of editing assignment; Presentation on how to successfully apply for journalism jobs and internships; Work on final project

WEEK 15: Final project due; Final questions and discussion