Instructor: Donald Plachno, BA, MA  
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Telephone: (325) 486-6855  
Office: Library 312 J (Inside Ram TV)  

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00am -9:00 am  
Or by appointment  

We will meet in Ram TV, Room 312, 3rd floor of the Porter Henderson Library. Some course communication and activities will be in Blackboard.  

Course Description: This is an introductory course in news writing, electronic news gathering and broadcast. Students will be required to work both in the Ram TV studio and in the field.  

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:  
• gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue. (CT 1 – Critical Thinking)  
• develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication. (CS2 – Communication Skills)  
• develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective visual communication (CS 3 – Communication Skills).  
• acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team. (TW1 – Teamwork)  
• demonstrate knowledge and responsibility by developing news judgment through the ability to decide what the news is and how the element of the story should be reported (SR2 – Social Responsibility).  
• demonstrate technical and analytic skills that are appropriate to their fields of study and applicable to future careers.  

Method for Assessing Student Learning Outcomes:  

Productions: Students will create news segments that help re-enforce the process of writing, filming and editing for electronic news production as well as explore the responsibility of reporting and delivering relevant content, exercising ethics and develop unbiased news judgment. Projects in this course require students to engage with members inside and outside the University, develop visual stories covering topics that are researched and relevant to the student population of Angelo State University.  

Live New Broadcasts: Students will be tasked in creating and airing multiple live news broadcasts. This will include creating news packages, story writing, show rundowns, anchoring and crew positions.  

Press Conference: Students will be engaged in mock press conferences in the role of reporters attempting to gather more information about a simulated disaster. Students will formulate questions and follow up question on the spot as information beyond the "press release" is revealed.
**Course Materials:** Students will need the following supplies: 16 GB SDHC memory card, SDHC card reader, a 250 gigabyte hard drive and a 16 GB flash drive.

**Equipment and Editing Systems:** Adobe Creative Cloud CC 2019 is available for use to complete course activities. Headphones will be made available for use during shooting and in the editing facility.

**Attendance:** The Department of Communication & Mass Media has a departmental attendance policy requiring students be present a minimum of 75% of all class meetings in order to pass this class. After eight absences, excused or unexcused, you will be given an "F" for the class, no matter what your grade average is.

Exams or assignments missed due to an unexcused absence will receive a zero.

Work handed in late without a proper excuse will not be accepted.

Attendance will be taken and counted beginning the first day of class and the subsequent lab. A student’s unexcused absence will result in a zero for all work/assignments completed on that day.

A student will have two (2) points will be deducted from the student’s FINAL average for each unexcused absence. You will be counted absent if you are not present for the entire class, this includes lab.

Three tardies (more than 10 minutes) will result in an absence.

The following are considered to be acceptable absences providing the student presents a typed, signed and dated excuse from a professional (Doctor, police officer, funeral director, university sponsor/advisor, etc.) Excuses will not be accepted from family members and/or friends.

**Projects (40% of grade):**

**News Packages:** Each News package will be between 2:00 to 2:30 minutes in length. Each group must acquire personal releases for each news package.

**Business Reporting:** opinion in studio, on location footage resources: economics department, business organizations on campus

**Sports Reporting:** studio or on location interview of guest, panel format, includes game highlights. resources: ASU basketball, baseball, softball practices, games and ASU athletes and coaches.

**Health & Medical:** on location stand-up, interview resources: ASU health clinic hospitals, medical centers, interview-staff member

**Entertainment:** interview, studio & field production, bridges, incorporate footage resources: plays, art, concerts.

**Man on the Street (MOS): (10% of Grade)**

**Live Broadcasts: (30% of grade)** Live News broadcast. Group members will broadcast live from Ram TV and newscast of their own making. You will be responsible for finding news content, writing readers, lead-ins, intros, outros, teases and pitches. Content will include news packages, voice overs and sound on tape... etc.
Group members will share the responsibilities for shooting and editing the news packages and will be graded on their total participation in the project. Each member of the crew will be peer reviewed by the other members of your group.

Test: (20% of grade) One comprehensive multiple choice Final Exam.

Course Communication I am available to answer questions in person before and after class and during office hours.

Honor Code Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both the print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

URL:http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf

American Disability Act Request for accommodations may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the essential elements of the academic course and/or the degree being sought. To the extent practical, the faculty and administration will make reasonable accommodations to assist qualified individuals with disabilities meet their degree requirements, consistent with the applicable provisions of Texas statues and the Regents’ RULES AND REGULATIONS. If you wish to have special accommodations made for your studies, please contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, (325) 942-2191. URL: http://www.angelo.edu/services/student_life/policystatement.html

Grade Appeal Process As stated in Angelo State University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc.


Week 1
Overview of course objectives and equipment checkout procedure.
Introduction to the Ram TV Studio.
Assign students to groups.
Read pgs. 165-181.
No Lab
Remaining Schedule will be posted later