COM 336: Television Workshop I
Fall 2013 – TR, 1:30-2:45 p.m. – Aven 109; LRC Studio

Instructor: Ryan J. Capell
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Office Hours: MTWR 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., F 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Course Description: This course provides actual experience in writing, filming, and producing materials for commercial or educational television.

Credit: 3 Semester Hours

Prerequisite: COM 102 for Communication majors

Texts: *Amusing Ourselves to Death, 20th Ann. Ed.,* by Neil Postman (ISBN 0-14-303653-X), required; *Writing and Producing Television News* by Alan Schroeder (ISBN 978-0-19-531193-8), suggested

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand television station and newsroom roles.
2. Perform basic video equipment operations.
3. Write, shoot, edit and report news stories.
4. Produce basic studio newscasts.
5. Understand essential standards of broadcast journalism.

COURSE CONTENT

- **Projects (30%):** Students will produce a number of assigned projects. Each project will be graded based on evaluations of the production process and the final product's quality and content.
- **Newscast Production (20%)**: Teams of students will produce a studio newscast. Students will receive a grade based on individual performance in the production and a peer review.
- **Book Discussions (20%)**: Students will submit written answers to questions based on readings in the Postman text. Grades will be given based on writing and participation in class discussions.
- **Exams (20%)**
- **Class Participation (10%)**

Grading Scale: A: 100-94, B: 93-85, C: 84-75, D: 74-65, F: 67>

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Class Participation: All students are expected to attend class on time and participate in discussion and activities. Students arriving late will be counted as tardy. Two late arrivals constitute one absence. Eight absences from class will result in an "F" grade. **TWO points will be deducted from the student's class participation grade for each unexcused absence. This penalty doubles on days when a guest is scheduled to visit class and on days when class trips are scheduled.** Students are responsible for all information covered in each class meeting missed. Phones must be turned to silent mode during class.

Students should not exit class to answer phone calls. Text messaging, social networking and other personal computing is not allowed during class and will result in a lowered class participation grade. Students should read the college's attendance policy in the undergraduate catalog. **Tuition refunds cannot be made on dropped classes after the first week of classes.**

Completion of Assignments and Exams: Unless otherwise specified, late submissions will **NOT** be accepted and will result in a grade of zero. Students are expected to take all exams on the scheduled date and time unless prior arrangement is made with the instructor. In rare cases, a written excused absence may be given from the scheduled exam date and time and in such cases, a make-up exam must be completed within two weeks of the original exam date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for that exam. The responsibility for scheduling all make-up exams rests with the student. Students will not be allowed to take exams prior to the scheduled date and time. No exemptions from the final exam will be made for graduating seniors.

Academic Integrity: Students must complete their own assignments; **plagiarism will not be tolerated**. Any student found in violation will receive an automatic "F" grade for the course and will be reported to the college's Vice President for Academic Affairs for further disciplinary action.

Special Accommodations: In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services **immediately upon recognition of their disability** (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment **immediately** upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation for a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current **(within 3 years).**

The student must meet with SCS **face-to-face** and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in **each semester** to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Student Counseling Services is located on the 4th floor of Alumni Hall or they may be contacted via email at mbryant@mc.edu . You may also reach them by phone at **601-925-7790. Dr. Morgan Bryant is director of MC Student Counseling Services.**

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE

Aug.	Thu	29	Class Introduction
Sep.	Tue	5	Production Process; Intro to Project 1
	Thu	7	Cameras, Lighting & Audio
	Tue	10	Shooting; Postman, Ch. 6
	Thu	12	Field Assignment
	Tue	17	Editing
	Thu	19	Digitizing & Posting
	Tue	24	Communication Technologies
	Thu	26	Project 1 Due; Postman, Ch. 7
Oct.	Tue	1	News Production; Intro to Project 2
	Thu	3	Newswriting
	Tue	8	**FALL BREAK, No Class Meeting**
	Thu	10	Interviewing; Postman Ch. 8
	Tue	15	Visit to WLBT Studios **
	Thu	17	Mid-Term Exam
	Tue	22	Project 2 Due
	Thu	24	Intro to Project 3
	Tue	29	Studio & Floor Management; Postman, Ch. 9
	Thu	31	Academic Competition
Nov.	Tue	5	Project 3 Shooting Day
	Thu	7	Newscast Production; Postman, Ch. 10
	Tue	12	Property and Lighting Design
	Thu	14	Project 3 Due
	Tue	19	Anchoring
	Thu	21	Postman, Ch. 11
	Tue	26	Production Meetings
	Thu	28	**Thanksgiving Break (No Class)**
Dec.	Tue	3	Newscast Rehearsals; Rundown Due
	Thu	5	Newscast Rehearsals; Scripts Due
	Tue	10	Newscast Tapings
	Tue	17	Final Exam (11:00 a.m.)

** - depart from classroom at 3:00 p.m.; return by 5:00 p.m. – no regularly scheduled class meeting

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.