

JOURNALISTIC INTERVIEWING

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T/TH 10-11:15 A.M.

SOC 014

HOW TO USE THIS SYLLABUS:

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO PRINT OUT AND PASTE THE DEADLINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS THAT FOLLOW IN YOUR NOTEBOOK AND/OR PUT UP ON YOUR PHONE. AFTER THIS LIST, YOU'LL FIND GUIDELINES FOR THE COURSE, A GRADING TEMPLATE, AND THE CLASS SCHEDULE. (YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO PUT UP THE CLASS SCHEDULE). YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SYLLABUS.

I. DEADLINES:

- **9/29: INFORMATION INTERVIEW W/AN EXPERT. 50 POINTS**
- **10/1: MIDTERM EXAM. 100 POINTS**
- **10/27: FIRST CONTENT EXAM. 50 POINTS**
- **10/29: TEAM INTERVIEW: MOCK RADIO INTERVIEW WITH STUDENT EXPERT 100 POINTS**
- **11/12 TEAM INTERVIEW: MOCK TV INTERVIEW RE CONTROVERSY 100 POINTS**
- **11/24 SECOND CONTENT EXAM 50 POINTS**
- **12/1 AND 12/3 TREND STORY PACKAGE PRESENTATION 200 POINTS**

THERE WILL BE 10 QUIZZES ON THE READINGS FOR 10 POINTS EACH. LAB WORK POINTS VARY, BUT TOTAL 150 POINTS. CLASS PARTICIPATION (REGULAR AND MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS IN CLASS) TOTALS 100 POINTS. THIS CLASS DOES NOT HAVE A FINAL EXAM.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GROUND RULES

INTERVIEWING IS A CRUCIAL SKILL FOR JOURNALISTS. IT ENCOMPASSES A NUMBER OF OTHER SKILLS: RESEARCH, FORMULATING QUESTIONS, LISTENING, OBSERVATION, AND

ANALYSIS. YOU WILL GET A GREAT DEAL OF PRACTICE IN INTERVIEWING FOR DIFFERENT JOURNALISTIC PLATFORMS. EXCEPT FOR THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT, WHICH INCLUDES A PAPER, YOUR INTERVIEWS WILL BE PRESENTATIONS/DEMONSTRATIONS, AS IN REAL-WORLD INTERVIEWING.

THIS CLASS COUNTS AS AN ELECTIVE FOR THE JOURNALISM MAJOR AND JOURNALISM MINOR.

Required Texts:

1. "Doing Interviews," Kvale (Sage pap, 2012)
2. "Interviewing for Journalists," Adams and Hicks (Routledge, paper, 2009)

WTC Bookstore has editions of Kvale available now. We won't be using Adams until after midterm; you can either order online or let me know if you want to order thru the Bookstore. Whether you order online or go to the bookstore, you must have "Doing Interviews" by next week.

Class Format:

The first class of each week usually will consist of lecture and discussion. The second class will be lab, during which you'll practice interviews, sometimes see interviews, and sometimes meet with interviewing experts.

GROUND RULES:

Absences: Attendance counts. Lab cannot be made up. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes from another student. Authorized absences for travel (e.g., travel for a club or team) must be given to me in advance. Documentation must be provided.

Make you Thanksgiving travel arrangements now so you don't miss 11/24 class.

Plan carefully: If you miss a lab or a quiz, you cannot make it up (unless for pre-authorized travel or if you have a documented illness or authorized absence). If you miss a guest speaker, you lose ten points.

Laptop/iPhone Use: Laptops and other digital devices cannot be used to take notes during lectures, unless you have an authorized reason for doing so. Using one without such permission will deduct ten points from your grade (see "Policy on lateness," below).

Class Participation:

In class, questions and comments are welcome. I expect everyone to contribute to this learning community. Class participation is worth 100 points of your final grade. Attendance itself does not count as participation. Up to 100 points may be deducted from your final grade for disruptive or inappropriate behavior.

Policy on lateness:

Come to class on time. Coming in late (more than five minutes) disrupts the class. Everyone is entitled to **one** late arrival. However, unless there is a verified reason (shuttle bus lateness), I expect you to be here on time. You lose 10 points for every late arrival, or for classroom “presentism,” as in:

- ✓ Leaving during class (unless it is for a medical reason)
- ✓ Looking at your computer/cell phone, or doing other work during class
- ✓ Willful napping.

ALSO:

- ✓ No eating is allowed in class. (unless it is for a documented medical reason)
- ✓ Make sure your cell phones are off (**not** on vibrate) before class begins.
- ✓ No laptops allowed, unless you have a documented reason for needing to use one.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

- ✓ **Plagiarism** of any form and of any length on assignments will be reported to the Dean of Students immediately and the student will receive a grade of "F" for the course. According to Loyola University guidelines(SOC website):

“ Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism is the

Appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been

influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, audio, video, etc."

- ✓ **Fabrication** of a whole assignment, or any part of an assignment, will result in an "F" for this course.
- ✓ **Cheating** on an exam or quiz will result in an "F" for this course.

Office Hours:

T/TH: I'm available Tuesdays after 11:40 until 3 pm. On Thursdays, I'm available until 1:30 p.m.

My office is in SOC 210 at WTC. Email me ahead of time to make sure I'm not in a meeting when you stop by.

I'm at the LSC campus on Th, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge in Mundelein (email me for when you'd like to meet).

If these times don't fit your schedule, feel free to set up an appointment by e-mailing me at cfletch@luc.edu.

Throughout the semester, feel free to email me any time with questions about your work.

III. GRADING

You will receive a numerical grade on all work for this class. There are 1,000 points possible.

The following point totals guarantee grades:

930-1000 = A

900 -929 = A-

870-899 = B+

830-869= B

800-829 = B-

770-799= C+

730-769=C

700-729= C-

670-699= D+

630-669= D

600-629= D-

Below 600 = F

NOTE: SEE “DEADLINES,” ABOVE (SECTION I) FOR POINTS FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT. Remember, that regular and meaningful participation is an important component of your grade.

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE

NOTES:

- ✓ **Articles to read will be added throughout the semester. These will be posted on Sakai, under “Announcements.” Feel free to suggest interviews we should view in class.**
- ✓ **You are responsible for checking “Announcements” on Sakai each week and before class.**
- ✓ **We will have 10 quizzes on the readings throughout the semester (each quiz is worth 10 points). You should complete each week’s reading before class.**

8/25 Introduction

--Explanation of First Interview Presentation (due 9/29)

--Sign up sheet for IES tour and interview later in semester

--Thanksgiving heads-up

8/27 Lab. Attention-building. 10 points

9/1 Before class:

- ✓ Read Kvale, Chapters 1, 2, and 4
- ✓ Read this article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/20/nyregion/regulars-at-a-manhattan-mcdonalds-arent-there-for-the-fries.html?src=me>
- ✓ Jot down some thoughts on what the reporter had to do to get this story; bring into class.

9/3 Lab.

- Before lab, read this article: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/04/science/for-sympathetic-ear-more-chinese-turn-to-smartphone-program.html?_r=0

Lab:

- Discuss above article
- Outside interviews. Listening for quotes. 10 points

9/4 GUIDELINES FOR FIRST PRESENTATION (9/29) WILL BE POSTED ON SAKAI, UNDER “ANNOUNCEMENTS.” THIS ASSIGNMENT HAS BOTH A WRITTEN AND ORAL COMPONENT.

9/8 Before class:

- ✓ Read Kvale Chapters 3 and 5
- ✓ Read this tip sheet: <http://dartcenter.org/content/covering-breaking-news-interviewing-victims-and-survivors#.VcuaMvkrcVR>
- ✓ In class:
Our discussion will include notes on avoiding libel.

9/10 Lab “Getting It Right,” “Eyes on the Storm,” and discussion.

9/15 Before class:

- ✓ Read Kvale, Chapters 6 and 7

9/17 Lab. 10 points

9/22 Before class: Read Kvale, Chapters 10, 11, and 12

9/23: GUIDELINES FOR EXAM WILL BE POSTED ON SAKAI, UNDER “ANNOUNCEMENTS.”

9/24 Lab. Part of this will be working on your presentation.

9/29 PRESENTATION: INTERVIEW WITH AN EXPERT. Oral presentation will be about four to five minutes. You will also hand in a written overview today (See instructions given on Sakai Announcements previously). 50 points.

10/1 MIDTERM EXAM

10/6 NO CLASS/FALL BREAK

10/8 Before class:

- ✓ Read http://espn.go.com/blog/poynterreview/post/_/id/320/john-sawatsky-is-highly-questionable.
- ✓ Read this article: : <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/19/magazine/you-just-got-out-of-prison-now-what.html>

In class: We'll discuss interviewing for broadcast, getting information from “fly on the wall,” and your upcoming Radio and TV interviews.

10/12 Instructions for TEAM MOCK RADIO INTERVIEW W/ AN EXPERT (due 10/29) will be given under “Announcements” on Sakai.

10/13 Before class:

- ✓ Read Adams, Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- ✓ Read this article on interviewing people with disabilities: <http://www.poynter.org/author/sheffernan/>
- ✓ Read this article re interviewing by email: <http://www.poynter.org/uncategorized/16916/step-by-step-e-mail-interviewing-tips/>
- ✓ Read this trend story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/02/education/edlife/stress-social-media-and-suicide-on-campus.html>

In class: Talk about team radio interview, due 10/29 and trend story, due 12/1

Receive midterms and midterm grades at end of class.

10/14 GUIDELINES FOR FINAL TWO INTERVIEWS WILL BE POSTED UNDER “ANNOUNCEMENTS” ON SAKAI:

- **TEAM MOCK TV INTERVIEW RE ISSUE OR CONTROVERSY (11/12)**
- **STORY PACKAGE (due 11/19)**

10/15 GUEST IN CLASS: newspaper reporter/editor re interviewing, for breaking news, profiles, and story packages. This will help you do your story package (11/24).

Lab grade of 20 points will consist of your asking questions (10 points) and submitting (email) a list of five things learned and two good quotes.

10/20 Before class:

- ✓ Read Adams, Chapters 4 and 7
- ✓ Read: <http://www.poynter.org/news/media-innovation/205518/how-journalists-can-become-better-interviewers/>
- ✓ Read <http://www.mediacollege.com/journalism/interviews/> (all sections on questions thru “tips”)

In class: Discuss Mock TV Interview (due 11/12) and Story Package (due 11/19)

10/22 GUEST IN CLASS. Lab grade of 20 points will consist of your asking questions (10 points) and submitting (email) a list of five things learned and two good quotes.

10/27 FIRST CONTENT EXAM. 50 POINTS

10/29 TEAM INTERVIEW: MOCK RADIO INTERVIEW W/ AN EXPERT. 100 points.

10/30 Deadline to withdraw without penalty grade of “WF.”

11/3 Before class:

- ✓ Read Adams, Chapters 5 and 6
- ✓ Read the following investigative article, looking for how interviews are used:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/nyregion/at-nail-salons-in-nyc-manicurists-are-underpaid-and-unprotected.html>

11/5 Lab Investigative interviews/broadcast

11/10 Before class: Read Adams, Chapters 8 and 9

In class: Talk about interviewing for long-form projects (documentary, investigative)

11/12 TEAM INTERVIEW: MOCK TV INTERVIEW. 100 points.

11/17 Before class: Read Adams, Chapters 10 and 11

11/19 Documentary. Questions on this material will be on Thursday's exam.

11/24 SECOND CONTENT EXAM (50 points) No re-takes given.

11/26 THANKSGIVING/NO CLASS

12/1 TREND STORY PACKAGE PRESENTATIONS

NOTE: Everyone must hand in the written portion of this today and be ready to present.

12/3 FINISH PRESENTATIONS. NOTE: BEING IN CLASS BOTH DAYS AND GIVING FEEDBACK WILL GIVE YOU 10 EXTRA POINTS.

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