

RTV 4930: Covering the Paralympics

Fall 2024

College of Journalism and Communications, University of Florida

Place: Paris, France

Dates: August 19-September 9, 2024

Instructor: Dr. Roxane Coche | rcoche@ufl.edu

Office Hours: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Fridays, and by appointment.

⇒ Email or text me at any time! My cell number is on Canvas.

Canvas Link: <https://ufl.instructure.com>

Course Text: All Readings and Resources will be available online or given in class.

Overview

Students will be responsible for creating content surrounding the Paralympic games, including fan experiences, sports in France, and other activities surrounding the event (media accreditations are not guaranteed). As a student, you will become better at turning in content within a strict deadline, you will enhance your storytelling skills, and you will improve at intercultural communication through interviews with people from around the world, gathered in Paris for the Paralympics.

Course Learning Objectives

The five main goals of this course are:

1. Learn to work together to explain and think critically about international issues, including but not limited to the influence of media on societies and the global sport industry through employing a wide variety of teamwork skills, intercultural communication and social interaction skills;
2. Develop an ability to identify and respect cultural and linguistic differences to be more effective communicators and writers.
3. Gain practical experience in advanced and specialized media event coverage;
4. Strengthen your competence in producing stories based on information obtained from primary sources and in a fast-paced environment;
5. Work through and hone your problem-solving skills;
6. Expand your professional network.

Study Abroad

In this course, students and instructor will be attending the Paralympic Games in Paris, France. You will gain firsthand experience creating content surrounding this prestigious multi-sport international competition. You will be in France not only as a student, but also as a representative of your department and of the University of Florida. As such, professional decorum is expected at all times. You are expected to conduct yourself in an honest, ethical, respectful and courteous manner with other students and faculty/staff, abiding by the UF Student Conduct and Honor Codes.

Some Rules

1. Professionalism

Respect your classmates, their work and their views. Be polite, professional and respectful when expressing yourself. Also respect cultural differences, which you will definitely come across in this class. In addition, I believe part of my job is to get you as ready for the professional industry as possible. Not following basic instructions disqualifies anyone from jobs, so, to get you ready for these expectations, you will have to follow every single instruction on any given assignment.

2. Preparation

As the old adage goes, “by failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail,” so do the required reading/homework. Ask questions if you have any doubts. I check my emails and texts way more than recommended by mental health professionals. I will always get back to you as soon as I can. If I seem to have forgotten for whatever reason (it doesn't happen often, but it might), message me again. You are not bugging me by staying on top of things. **However:** If you have a question about an assignment, don't text me at the last minute and expect an answer right away/before the deadline. I may be sleeping or showering at that time. I may use technology in unhealthy fashion (or so *they* say), but I am still a human being.

3. Deadlines

Remember there's a reason “DEAD” makes up half the word “deadline.” All deadlines are firm, especially in the media industry. You are responsible for turning in all assignments, stories and projects on the date and time they are due. If you want to get ahead, you are welcome to. I will always try to provide feedback in a timely manner. Exceptions will be made following the UF attendance policy as needed, and they *may* be made for extraordinary circumstances if you notify me before the due date. I am available for texts, calls, meetings on a daily basis, please reach out!

4. Feedback

Some assignments will be discussed as a class, so your work may be critiqued by your peers. While this can be uncomfortable, it is much better to get such criticism in class than from Internet trolls. Of course, refer to rule #1 when you are doing the critiquing.

5. Course Content

In the interest of honest and frank discussions, all materials I post on Canvas or other instructing tools (lectures, comments of guest speakers, discussion boards) are strictly off the record. This means that they may not be published in any format, either in a print publication or on a website, personal blog or social media.

6. Engagement

My role is akin to that of a coach. You are the players on the field, the main actors of this course. Get involved! Note, also, that your presence is required at all class activities (including cultural excursions) unless you have an excusable absence according to UF's [attendance policies](#).

7. Honor Code

All students are expected to follow the University of Florida Honor Code. The full text of the Honor Code can be found on the [Dean of Students Office's website](#). Any violation of the academic integrity expected will result in a minimum academic sanction of a grade of zero on the appropriate assignment, and the student being reported.

8. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this process as early as possible in the semester.

9. Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on a minimum of 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. They typically open during the last three weeks of the semester. Announcements will be made giving specific times when they are open. Summary results are available at the URL above.

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week	Topic
August 19	Arrival in Paris.
August 20	Programme orientation + Cultural activity (Montparnasse Tower).
August 21	Course introduction + Cultural activity (Montmartre).
August 22	Prepping for the Paralympics project + Cultural activity (Parc des Princes).
August 23	Prepping for the Paralympics project + Cultural activity (Louvre exhibition).
August 24	Weekend
August 25	
August 26-27	Meet & Greets with Spain Paralympics actors
August 28- September 8	Paralympics project
September 9	Lessons & reflections from course

Course Grading

You will be graded in accordance with [UF policies](#) out of 1,000 points:

Evaluation Components	Points Per Component	% of Total Grade	Note
Class assignments	200 pts	20%	Detailed instructions and rubrics are available on Canvas. Note: For every assignment you turn in, errors of fact (including misspellings of proper names) will lower your grade by 20% (of the maximum number of points possible) each time they appear in a story. Easily avoidable mistakes (missing words, typos, basic spelling or grammatical errors) will each cost 5%.
Social media posts	200 pts	20%	
Paralympics project--Group	200 pts	20%	
Paralympics project--Individual	400 pts	40%	
Total	1,000 pts	100%	

Final grades will be calculated with the following table:

		930-1,000 points	A	900-929 points	A-
875-899 points	B+	830-874 points	B	800-829 points	B-
775-799 points	C+	730-774 points	C	700-729 points	C-
675-699 points	D+	630-674 points	D	600-629 points	D-
599 points and under	F				

Additional policies and information

1. Health and wellness resources on campus

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

2. Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).