

JOU 4201: Reptile Report

Spring 2025

College of Journalism and Communications
University of Florida

Instructor: Geoff Thompson

Place: Weimer 3020 + INC Newsroom and TV Studio

*****LIVE CLASS MEETING: Monday 1145-1235, Wednesday 1145-140*****

E-Mail: gthompson@jou.ufl.edu

IG & Twitter: [@thompsonsport](https://www.instagram.com/thompsonsport)

Office Hours: Mondays 2-4

Office: Weimer Hall 3327

Phone: (352) 294-7740

Teaching Assistants:

Shelby Hatcher (production): Office hours TBD

Course Site: <https://ufl.instructure.com>

Course Text: None

Overview and Objectives

Students are to get more experience reporting – pitching their own stories, then helping to shoot, edit and write their stories, complete with stand-ups where needed – to add to their reels.

Students will work in groups to complete your stories. One person might be the lead on one story, and then students would switch. For example, Student A might be the reporter, student B helps with the camera, sound, b-roll, etc. And then on Student B's story, Student A helps with camera, sound, b-roll.

*****Reporters are responsible for their own editing*****

Course Learning Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Use this lab/immersion to gain experience that they might not be able to get working with UFT or other television production
- 2) Build skills with cameras and editing

- 3) Learn what constitutes story telling and apply those skills to students' own stories
- 4) Understand industry standards with equipment, skills, and concepts

College of Journalism and Communications Objectives

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications requires that by graduation all students should be able to:

- understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the US
- demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- think critically, creatively and independently;
- conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;
- apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.

Course Grades

Evaluation Components	% of Total Grade
On-time – are you coming to class/shows on time. You'd be amazed how important this is in the real world.	20%
Pitching and Meeting Deadlines – Like in the real world, you will be expected to generate some of your own story ideas. And then are you turning in your stories on-time?	20%
Performance/professionalism - Are you doing what you say you're going to do? Are you producing good work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You will need 3 stories this semester. ● The package rubric is on Canvas 	20%

• Adhere to dress code	
Midterm	10%
In-Class Assignments	10%
Final Project – Reel	20%
Total	100%

A Word about Professionalism

Dress Code:

- On camera, you must at least be business casual (at least a collared shirt/blouse, no shorts)
- Submit a picture from your shoot, ensuring that you are dressed properly.
- Improper dress on a shoot will be 50% off your assignment

Code of Conduct

- Must be professional at ALL TIMES on a shoot
- Complaints about behavior = failing grade
- 1st complaint – failing grade on assignment
- 2nd complaint – fail the class

Packages

PKGs are due on Thursdays. On Fridays, Shelby will watch and grade the PKGs and provide detailed feedback. If the students fix the issue before the following Monday, they can earn 50% of their missed points back. So, if their original grade is 80%, when they fix all the notes, their grade will be 90%. They can also earn 5 additional points if they schedule office hours.

Please look at the rubric on Canvas before you begin packages. We will also go over the package rubric in class.

Grading (grades are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number for grading purposes)

93.5%-100%	A	89.5%-93.4%	A-		
86.5%-89.4%	B+	82.5%-86.4%	B	79.5%-82.4%	B-
76.5%-79.4%	C+	72.5%-76.4%	C	69.5%-72.4%	C-
66.5%-69.4%	D+	62.5%-66.4%	D	59.5%-62.4%	D-
0-59.4%	F				

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to class • Introduction to cameras
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Week 2 (NO CLASS MONDAY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camera exercise
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing • Shooting Packages • Story 1 Pitches
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packages • Work on Story 1
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Story 1 • Story 1 Due
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show 1 • Show 2 Pitches
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Story 2
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Story 2 • Story 2 Due
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show 2 • Story 3 Pitches
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRING BREAK
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Story 3
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story 3 •
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS MONDAY • Work on Story 3
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Story 3 • Story 3 Due
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show 3

Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance in the class is required. Excused absences include approved UF attendance exceptions. In all

instances of excused absences the instructor and student will work out a plan for completing missed assignments.

Students are expected to participate in all class discussions. Please turn off cell phones prior to class. Sports reporting is a deadline-based profession, so you are expected to arrive on time for each class.

In case of illness, the instructor should be notified in advance and a physician's note may be required. Unexcused absences will result in deductions from the students final percentage score. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies which can be found in the online catalog at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Attendance is recorded and you **WILL** lose points for absence from class time. This could affect up to 15% of your final grade. There are **NO** free absences from class. We only meet once a week. For each absence you will lose class participation points, unless you have a note and it is excused and approved by UF.

Online

No online option

Absences and Make-up Work

Students are expected to be in class on time and remain until the dismissal. Absences are unexcused when the professor has not been notified of an acceptable reason within 24 hours of the class meeting. When absent, you are missing valuable repetitions to help you get better. BUT – don't come to class sick.

Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by the Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. For more information visit the Honor Code web page at

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/> or contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) 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.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Course Grading

Students will be graded in accordance with UF policies for assigning grade points as articulated in the link that follows. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Respect for Diversity Statement

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

It is imperative that there be an atmosphere of trust and safety in the classroom. I will attempt to foster an environment in which each class member is able to hear and respect each other. It is critical that each class member show respect for all worldviews expressed in class. Please let me know if something said or done in the classroom, by either myself or other students, is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense. While our intention may not be to cause discomfort or offense, the impact of what happens throughout the course is not to be ignored and is something that I consider to be very important and deserving of attention. If and when this occurs, there are several ways to alleviate some of the discomfort or hurt you may experience:

1. Discuss the situation privately with me. I am always open to listening to students' experiences, and want to work with students to find acceptable ways to process and address the issue.
2. Discuss the situation with the class. Chances are there is at least one other student in the class who had a similar response to the material. Discussion enhances the ability for all class participants to have a fuller understanding of context and impact of course material and class discussions.
3. Notify me of the issue through another source such as your academic advisor, a trusted faculty member, or a peer. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable discussing the issue directly with me, I encourage you to seek out another, more comfortable avenue to address the issue.

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

COVID POLICY

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#)

***NOTE: Topic schedule subject to change based on guest availabilities and other factors.**