

Cover Sheet: Request 15209

JOU 4201 News Center Practicum

Info

Process	Course Modify Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Theodore Spiker tspiker@jou.ufl.edu
Created	8/3/2020 11:50:22 AM
Updated	9/9/2020 7:28:46 PM
Description of request	Change credits of JOU 4201 from 3 to variable (1-3) and to repeatable credit

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	JOU - Journalism 012304000	Theodore Spiker		8/3/2020
No document changes					
College	Approved	JOU - College of Journalism and Communications	James Babanikos		8/3/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			8/3/2020
No document changes					
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

Course|Modify for request 15209

Info

Request: JOU 4201 News Center Practicum

Description of request: Change credits of JOU 4201 from 3 to variable (1-3) and to repeatable credit

Submitter: Theodore Spiker tspiker@jou.ufl.edu

Created: 8/3/2020 11:33:18 AM

Form version: 1

Responses

Current Prefix JOU

Course Level 4

Number 201

Lab Code None

Course Title News Center Practicum

Effective Term Earliest Available

Effective Year Earliest Available

Requested Action Other (selecting this option opens additional form fields below)

Change Course Prefix? No

Change Course Level? No

Change Course Number? No

Change Lab Code? No

Change Course Title? No

Change Transcript Title? No

Change Credit Hours? Yes

Current Credit Hours 3

Proposed Credit Hours Variable

Change Variable Credit? No

Change S/U Only? No

Change Contact Type? No

Change Rotating Topic Designation? No

Change Repeatable Credit? Yes

Repeatable Credit From Non-repeatable to Repeatable

Maximum Repeatable Credits 6

Change Course Description? No

Current Course Description Creating and editing local news content in our college's professional news center for broadcast and digital platforms serving north central Florida; emphasizes news judgement that serves the audience.

Change Prerequisites? No

Change Co-requisites? No

Rationale We are requesting the modification of JOU 4201 News Center Practicum to be a variable credit course that will have multiple sections. This course would be the umbrella practicum course for many types of student experiences in our Innovation News Center, our real-world newsroom that serves audiences of North Central Florida through WUFT and WRUF (TV, audio, and digital channels).

Currently, this class is tailored toward only one aspect of operations (web editing). Other experiences (such as anchoring and special projects) are listed through JOU 4905 (independent studies) or JOU 4930 (special topics courses).

To help make experiences consistent, we will be expanding the scope of the course creating different sections with different topics under the JOU 4201 News Center Practicum umbrella (web editing, anchoring, special projects), although the main description of providing content in the news center will remain the same. The variable credits will be designed to allow students different levels of engagement, similar to the way an internship with variable credit would work.

JOU 4201: News Center Practicum

Meets: Innovation News Center

*Each student works with the instructor to create a schedule for shift work in the INC based on their section and credit hours. Some sections may have one common meeting time of 1 hour per week.

Prereq: JOU 3101

Course Faculty

TBD based on section

Office Hours

TBD

Credits

1 credit: 3 hours of shift work per week

2 credits: 6 hours of shift work per week

3 credits: 9 hours of shift work per week

Sections (sample)

Web Editing

TV Anchor

Sports Anchor

News in 90

Audio Special Projects

TV Special Projects

Photo/Video

Course Objective

To provide students with practical experience in journalism by working in a role in the Innovation News Center in the UF College of Journalism and Communications.

Course Description

This is a newsroom experience course that produces journalism in the Innovation News Center (Weimer 2300). The INC is a professional newsroom serving WUFT, north central Florida's NPR (WUFT-FM) and PBS (WUFT-TV) affiliate, WRUF, ESPN Gainesville's TV, radio station and website. These are not campus stations. They are professional news outlets serving no fewer than 19 counties in north central Florida. So for this class, think and act like a professional journalist. In other words, treat this class like a job or internship. Because this is a real newsroom, your workday will vary. The majority of your time will be spent in the field and in the newsroom producing stories for wuft.org/news and other properties of the Innovation News Center.

Newsroom Intranet

Most details about how to function in the INC – from finding stories to writing headlines — are on the WUFT News intranet (<http://www.wuft.org/newsroom>). The username and password are both “newsroom.”

Suggested textbooks

Inside Reporting. Harrower, T., 2009. New York, NY: McGraw- Hill. This text will answer the majority of reporting/editing questions.

AP Style Book - Available via Newsroom Intranet (login and password both are newsroom.)

Aim for the Heart: Write, Shoot, Report, Produce for TV and Multimedia (3rd Ed.) © Al Tompkins

Clark, Roy P. Writing Tools: 55 Essential Strategies For Every Writer, 10th Ed. New York: Hachette Book Group, 2006.

Kramer, M., Call, W., & Harvard University. (2007). Telling true stories: A nonfiction writers' guide from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University. New York: Plume.

Strunk, William, and E. B. White. The elements of style. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999. ISBN 978-0205309023 (Invaluable reference for writing clean, simple prose. You should carry this with you throughout your career. Keep it close for quick references).

Assignments and Grading

Job Assignments

Professionalism and Social Media..... 25%

(Each section will provide assignments and expectations based on the nature of the immersion experience. See samples below.)

Story assignments are determined by the nature of the section. Rubrics will be handed out by your instructor.

Weekly Schedule

You will assume the role assigned to you in the news center. Weekly assignments will vary depending on the nature of the section and the credit hours for which you are enrolled. Instruction is hands-on—critiques of work and one-on-one meetings throughout the semester.

Story assignments

If producing original content, stories should ...

- Be between 600-800 words (exceptions may apply for breaking news, enterprise and investigative work)
- Cover the 5 Ws + How and Why
- Be timely (What’s the news peg?)
- Be shareable (Would you email this or share on social?)
- Be balanced and fair
- Be error-free (Misspelled names count.)
- Have multiple sources (at least three, more likely five to six, including humans, public records and factual documents)
- Adhere to AP Style
- Use active verbs and vivid descriptions. Show, don’t tell. Avoid the use of passive voice and “be” verbs.
- Avoid jargon or wordiness (Make every word matter.)
- Have visual elements (image, video, graphic, etc...) You must provide a caption for every photo, with all people and places identified (Every story must have AT LEAST TWO photos.)

Conflicts of Interest

Students in this course shall not be used as sources for your field assignments. The same applies to

Grading Scale
The members of any other to pass this course extra-Curricular Organizations provided to the students whole reporting: 89.4 rounds down to 89 (B+) while 89.5 rounds up to 90 (A-). More details on the university’s grading policy can be found in the [undergraduate catalog online](#) .

	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent
		B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%
A	100-94%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
A-	93-90%	B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%

Attendance

Course requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with [UF policy](#) . An absence can be accommodated if and only if (a) the absence is covered by UF policy, (b) you call your lab instructor at least 30 minutes before class begins, and/or (c) you promptly provide written documentation for the absence.

Professionalism

When you are pursuing a story for WUFT News, adopt the persona of a professional journalist. Be early for interviews or appointments. Dress appropriate to the story, which is usually business casual attire. Identify yourself as a reporter for WUFT News (You are working as a professional reporter, not a student. You will likely have greater response from your subject(s) if you do not introduce yourself as a student.) Late assignments will have a point deduction as outlined by the instructor.

Plagiarism

Do your own reporting and writing. Plagiarism — including using material from news releases and information gathered from the internet without attribution (Hyperlink whenever possible!) — will result in serious and harsh consequences—reporting of a violation of the [Student Honor Code](#) . If you have even the smallest doubt or are confused about this or anything else in the course, PLEASE

have even the smallest doubt or are confused about this or anything else in the course, PLEASE ASK. T

Useful Resources:

Division of Student Affairs (352-392-1261) – Contact this office if you need to miss class due to an on-going medical problem or family emergency. The office will send a courtesy email to your instructors about your absence. [http:// www.ufsa.ufl.edu/](http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/)

UF Counseling & Wellness Center (352-392-1575) – The center provides scheduled and drop-in appointments with counselors to discuss a range of personal issues. [http:// www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)

Disability Resource Center (352-392-1261) – Students requesting class accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center. You will receive documentation to give to each of your instructors. You must meet with your lab instructor and with me during office hours to discuss special arrangements. Please take action immediately. <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

Communication Coaching Center (1088 Weimer Hall) – Student members of the Journalism and Communications Ambassadors staff the center. They can provide coaching on writing assignments, grammar and AP style issues. They also can assist you in applying for internships and finding sources for a story. <http://www.ufjca.org/communications-coaching-center.html>

Computers – Call 352-392-HELP (4357) or email helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Knight Division for Scholarships, Career Services and Multicultural Affairs (1060 Weimer) - Provides information on scholarships and internships and sets up the College Interviewing Day each semester. Dr. Katrice Graham is the director. <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/knight/>

Career Resource Center – The CRC is located on the main floor of the Reitz Union and provides free career assessment and counseling. Check the CRC website for information about workshops, career and job fairs, or to schedule an appointment. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

SNAP – Offering pick-up and drop-off services for after-dark safety. Call 352-392-7627 or check online [http:// www.police.ufl.edu/community-services/student-nighttime-auxiliary-patrol-snap/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/community-services/student-nighttime-auxiliary-patrol-snap/) You can get the SNAP App for free by using either the Android Market or Apple App Store and searching for SNAP UF.

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 gatorevals.ua.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 ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Sample Assignments and Shifts

Section: Web Editing

3 credits=9 hours of shift

2 credits=6 hours of shift

1 credit=3 hours of shift

75%: Job Assignments

Evaluation of quality of editing of stories produced by reporters, story idea generation, audience engagement, headline writing, SEO, deadline reporting. Report your work in a weekly log.

25%: Professionalism

Evaluation of meeting deadlines, time management, interaction with peers, initiative, professional attitude and work ethic.

Section: News Anchor

3 credits= 9 hours of INC reporting and anchoring

2 credits=6 hours of INC reporting and anchoring

1 credit=3 hours of INC reporting and anchoring

75%: Job Assignments

Overall assessment of reporting and anchoring during shifts. You will be critiqued weekly and judged on overall quality as well as improvement throughout the semester.

25%: Professionalism

Evaluation of meeting deadlines, time management, interaction with peers, initiative, professional attitude and work ethic.

