

# Cover Sheet: Request 11362

## JOU 4950 changes

### Info

Process	Course Modify Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending
Submitter	Spiker, Theodore D tspiker@jou.ufl.edu
Created	12/13/2016 10:59:10 AM
Updated	1/12/2017 8:32:23 PM
Description of request	Class becomes common capstone for students. Changes in title, prereqs, description.  This course has been modified to reflect the nature of the course -- in that students will be working in teams to produce digital projects that include a variety of skills (based off of the two-course sequences, such as writing, photo, data, coding, etc...).

### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	JOU - Journalism 012304000	Spiker, Theodore D		12/13/2016
No document changes					
College	Approved	JOU - College of Journalism and Communications	Weigold, Michael Fredrick		12/15/2016
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Comment	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)	Case, Brandon	Added to the January agenda.	12/16/2016
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			12/16/2016
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 11362

## Info

**Request:** JOU 4950 changes

**Description of request:** Class becomes common capstone for students. Changes in title, prereqs, description.

This course has been modified to reflect the nature of the course -- in that students will be working in teams to produce digital projects that include a variety of skills (based off of the two-course sequences, such as writing, photo, data, coding, etc...).

**Submitter:** Spiker, Theodore D tspiker@jou.ufl.edu

**Created:** 12/13/2016 10:59:10 AM

**Form version:** 1

## Responses

**Current Prefix**JOU

**Course Level**4

**Number** 950

**Lab Code** None

**Course Title** Applied Online Journalism

**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?**Yes

**Current Course Title**Applied Online Journalism

**Proposed Course Title**Applied Journalism

**Change Transcript Title?**Yes

**Current Transcript Title**App Online Journalism

**Proposed Transcript Title (21 char. max)**Applied Journalism

**Change Credit Hours?**No

**Change Variable Credit?**No

**Change S/U Only?**No

**Change Contact Type?**No

**Change Rotating Topic Designation?**No

**Change Repeatable Credit?**No

**Change Course Description?**Yes

**Current Course Description**A senior-level course that brings together the work of the preceding news courses into actual experience and newsroom training in the preparation and handling of news copy, pictures and syndicated materials. Special section offered for electronic publishing.

**Proposed Course Description (50 words max)**This course aims to prepare students for professional-caliber reporting, writing and production of multimedia storytelling suitable for publication in various traditional/digital outlets. You will assume the role of a professional journalist, and we will conduct this class through a series of seminars and heavily coached group projects.

**Change Prerequisites?**Yes

**Current Prerequisites**MMC 3260 with minimum grade of C; one or more of JOU 3601, JOU 4342 or MMC 4341L with minimum grade(s) of C, and instructor permission.

**Proposed Prerequisites**JOU 3346, 4JM designation and a minimum grade of C or better in JOU 4308, JOU 3213, JOU 3305, JOU 4201, JOU 4604 or permission of department.

**Change Co-requisites?**No

**Rationale**This course becomes common capstone for JOU students. Adjustment in prereqs, title and description and other material included.

# JOU 4950: Applied Journalism

Spring 2018

**Instructors:** Matt Sheehan, *Director of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century News Lab and Lecturer*  
[mseehan@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:mseehan@jou.ufl.edu) @mattsheehan 352-354-3629

At the start of the term, students will form small groups to which a faculty/adjunct coach will be nominated/selected to work closely. Those coaches will share contact information on the Canvas course management system at that time of appointment early in the semester.

## Course Description

This course aims to prepare students for professional-caliber reporting, writing and production of multimedia storytelling suitable for publication in various traditional/digital outlets. You will assume the role of a professional journalist, and we will conduct this class through a series of seminars and heavily coached group projects. Over the course of the three projects created during the semester, students will work in teams consisting of students with diverse skillsets that emulate the professional media work environment.

In this capstone course, you are expected to produce senior-level, high-quality work with depth and critical thinking. In exchange, you will receive feedback that will improve and strengthen your work in new and creative ways.

The capstone manager will work along with a number of coaches to ensure that students are progressing through the projects and receiving the feedback required to produce professional-caliber, publishable acts of journalism.

## Course Objectives:

- Students gain hands-on experience in multimedia journalism, working in teams.
- Students experiment with tools and best practices in written, visual, programming and audio storytelling, and learning to collaborate with journalists with different strengths than their own.
- Students learn best practices for producing digital journalism stories.
- Students will be able to use appropriate multimedia reporting and production tools.

## Course Outcomes: Projects

1. Students in this course will each work with varying groups to produce three projects, of varying time lengths, to be completed during the semester
2. Each project is a story or journalistic resource produced for an external audience.
3. The project concept, goals and timeline are determined by the team.

## Course text and readings:

Web readings and articles as selected by the instructors will be emailed and updated on the Canvas learning system throughout the semester.

Access to training materials on Lynda.com (available through UF).

**Equipment and Supplies:**

Students are expected to own basic digital audio, photo and video equipment as well as a MacBook Pro with necessary software installed. Specific requirements are posted here: [http://www.jou.ufl.edu/academic/jou/curriculum-revision/index.php?page\\_id=8](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/academic/jou/curriculum-revision/index.php?page_id=8)

**Your Project Teams**

During the course of the semester, you will be assigned to different teams. We shall form these teams based on the following:

1. Three students per team is optimal. When three is not possible, four is better than two. Ideally no student would be on a team of four more than once.
2. The capstone manager assigns students to teams based on their skillsets.
3. Each team's coach appoints the team leader. Each student will be team leader once per semester. The coaches ensure this.
4. The team leader assigns tasks and coordinates the work. Fair division of labor is desired, but also, the project must meet deadlines. The team leader is not expected to do work that others neglect but is expected to keep records of what, if anything, went wrong and why.

**Course Schedule/Project Sprints:**

**Week 1:**

Course Introduction & Expectations  
Team Assignments

**Weeks 2-4:**

Project One sprint

**Weeks 5-9:**

Project Two sprint

**Weeks 10-16:**

Project Three sprint

During each project sprint, the teams will meet with and without their coach to develop and execute their act of journalism. These meetings shall include the following with the coach: pitch session, story draft meeting, story refinement meeting, pre-completion meeting and a post-mortem on the project. Each project sprint will require additional time for the group to meet without the coach to plan and execute.

At the launch of each sprint, a full course meeting will be held to convene the groups for a wide-group sprint launch and recap seminar.

**Grading**

Students will be assessed on three projects, by the coaching team and taking into account feedback from team leaders and members. At the first course meeting each term, the capstone manager, coaches and student participants will collaboratively develop a project evaluation rubric that will be used to assess each project during that term. Students will work with the coaches to develop expectations for each project, stretch goals and determine what objectives each project shall be expected.

- Project One: 30 percent**
- Project Two: 30 percent**
- Project Three: 30 percent**
- Seminar Participation: 5 percent**
- Peer-Review Feedback: 5 percent**

**Grading Scale**

	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent
		B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%
A	100-93%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%
A	92-90%	B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%
-							

Scores are rounded to the nearest whole point: 89.4 rounds down to 89 (B+) while 89.5 rounds up to 90 (A-). The [UF grading policy](#) details how GPA is computed.

**CAUTION:**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> If your absence is not covered by UF policy, your work is subject to deductions, such as automatic failure of the assignment/project for missed deadlines. Errors in proper nouns or facts result in automatic failure of the assignment/project. Stories with conflicts of interest of the reporter shall also result in automatic failure (a separate sheet explaining conflict of interest with examples will be handed out in the first class). Do NOT tell sources you are working for the Alligator or any other publication. Students often find sources are more willing to talk if the students are dressed appropriately.

**Sources:** One of the best ways to ensure your stories are fair accurate and complete is to gather information from a variety of sources. In selecting potential sources for your stories, keep in mind that we live in a diverse, multicultural world. You should make every effort to have your stories reflect that. Talk to a variety of people from different backgrounds, educational levels, etc. to get a complete story.

Students enrolled in this course should not be used as sources in your stories unless they are involved directly in the story. Friends, roommates, relatives, sorority sisters, fraternity brothers, etc. usually pose a conflict-of-interest threat when used as sources.

**Do your own reporting and writing.** Plagiarism—including using material from news releases and information gathered from the Internet without attribution—will result in serious and harsh consequences. Should that be discovered, you will fail the course and be recommended for expulsion from the University. You can find the college's official ethical standards at <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/academic/jou/honesty/demic/jou/honesty/>. If you have even the smallest doubt or are confused about this or anything else in the course, PLEASE ASK.

Lectures and materials in this class are the property of the University/faculty member. Lectures may not be taped without permission from the lecturer and may not be used for any commercial purpose. Students found in violation may be subject to discipline under the University's Student Conduct Code.

The **University of Florida Honor Code** was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

**Preamble:** In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

**The Honor Code:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. 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."

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean will provide documentation to the student who must provide documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **Student Health and Wellness**

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](mailto: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 911.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online [evaluations](#). You will be notified by email when the evaluations are open, typically in the last two or three weeks of the semester. Summary [results](#) are available to you and the public.

### **Academic Resources**

- E-learning technical support: 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu) or reach the [website](#).
- For career advice and planning, or even help selecting a major or minor, contact the [Career Resource Center](#) in the Reitz Union, 392-1601.
- For help in finding resources, ask a UF librarian through [Library Support](#).
- General study skills and tutoring available from the [Teaching Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420.

Have a complaint? See the [UF Complaints Policy](#) for links and directions