# JOURNALISM 382: RADIO NEWS PRODUCTION

# Fall Semester 2015: Tues/Thurs 8:00am-9:50am/LA 4-204

**Instructor: Nick Roman** **Nicholas.Roman@csulb.edu**

**Office Hours: after class or by appointment - Fridays 10:00am/Journalism Office**

Journalism 382 is your introduction to broadcast news production, deadlines and standards. This class emphasizes the professional relationship between a reporter and an editor. You’ll be treated as a pro, not a student.

**Lectures/Labs/Final Exam in LA 4-204 at 8:00am:**

We will meet 28 times. That’s because I cannot be in class on Tuesday 09.08.15. We do not meet on Tuesday 11.24.15 or Thursday 11.26.15 (Thanksgiving week). The Final Exam is on Monday 12.14.15 at 8:00am.

What you’ll do:

You’ll learn how to come with an idea for a broadcast news story; how to contact sources; how to conduct interviews; how to judge acceptable audio quality; how to select audio that interests and informs the audience; and how to construct, write and produce broadcast news reports. You’ll be expected to meet deadlines, avoid mistakes and recover from setbacks. You’ll practice writing and voicing. We’ll do LOTS of work on BeachBoard. Keep me informed every week about progress or problems. You need to practice news writing and voicing. I can offer advice on voicing, but I am more concerned about how well you plan projects, conduct interviews, construct stories and meet deadlines.

**What You'll Need:**

**1)** The free Audacity audio editing program. Download the beta version for either a PC or a Mac at this web site: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

**2)** A recorder. Your smartphone has an audio recording app that works well. There are other recording apps that work well, too.

**3)** The DropBox app on your smartphone and your computer.

**Required Text:**

***Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production***

*Jonathan Kern, University of Chicago Press (2008)*

***AP Stylebook***

**Suggested Text:**

***Inside Reporting: A Practical Guide to the Craft of Journalism – Third Edition*** *Tim Harrower (2013), McGraw-Hill*

**Class Participation:**

Asking questions, sharing ideas and connecting the dots: That’s what we do in journalism, so do it in class. If you do, it’ll make for a better and more rewarding class. If you don’t, it’ll lower your grade. Come to class prepared and ready to go with your assignments finished.

I take attendance. Each class you miss costs 1 grade point. I make exceptions for illness or family emergency if you inform me you’ll be out BEFORE you're out.

Rules of the game:

The news business lives on deadlines, and so will you. I will not grade late work. I will not accept excuses for missed deadlines based on conflicts with work or class schedules, or computer problems. Also: There is no “extra credit.”

**Grades:**

It’s a 500-point grading system, and it works like this:

**Quizzes –** 100 points (spread throughout the semester)

**Midterm –** 50 points

**Final –** 50 points

**Story 1 –** 50 points (interview)

**Story 2 –** 50 points (profile)

**Story 3 –** 50 points (feature)

**Twitter/Soundcloud project –** 50 points

**Instagram project –** 75 points

**Attendance –** 25 points (applied at the end of the semester)

**Here's the grading scale:**

**A – 500-451 B – 450-401 C – 400-351 D – 350 or below**

**Accuracy, Integrity and Fairness:**

As in any journalism course or real world story assignment, you will demonstrate the highest standards of accuracy, integrity and fairness in your information gathering and writing. Sources are to be attributed. A student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations or purchasing papers or other assignments will receive a failing grade in the course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Your work will also demonstrate a mastery of these core values and competencies. According to the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, all graduates, irrespective of their particular specialization, should be able to:

1. Understand and apply principles of law of freedom of speech and press for the United States, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of expression around the world—including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in the United States in relation to mass communications.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in global society in relationship to communications.
5. Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.
6. Work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
7. Think critically, creatively and independently.
8. Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.
9. Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve.
10. Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness.
11. Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts.
12. Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.

**ADDENDUM: CSULB Academic Policies**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:

Faculty will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and requires needed accommodation. The faculty may wish to contact the OSD to verify the presence of a disability and confirm that the accommodation is necessary. The OSD will arrange and provide for the accommodation. Reasonable accommodations may be needed during class sessions and for administration of examinations. The intent of the ADA in requiring consideration of reasonable accommodations is not to give a particular student an unfair advantage over other students, but simply to allow a student with a disability to have an equal opportunity to be successful.

Seat in Class: An enrolled student may lose his/her seat in class if he/she misses the first class meeting without notifying the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, a student who attends the first class but not subsequent classes may also be dropped from the course.

Withdrawal from Class: Students may withdraw from a class from the third to the 12th week for “serious and compelling reasons.” Normally these are defined as anything of importance that is beyond the control of the student. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, death or serious illness in a student's immediate family or a documented change in a student's work schedule. Poor performance, tardiness and unexcused absences are not considered compelling reasons beyond the student's control for purposes of withdrawing.

Absences from Class: Grades in a course may be adversely affected by absences, and students should seek clarification from the instructor regarding the course absence policy. Makeups usually are granted in strict accordance with CSULB policy, which defines excused absences as (1) illness or injury to the student; (2) death, injury or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like; 93) religious reasons; (4) jury duty or government obligation; (5) CSULB-sanctioned or approved activities [2002-03 Catalog, p.75]. These and any other requests for an excused absence must be documented.

Grading: The grading policies and practices in this class are explained elsewhere in the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to read them and to seek clarification if necessary. The student should be fully aware of what is required for success in the course, such as group participation, writing speaking, completing assigned readings, etc.

CSULB Cheating/Plagiarism/Fabrication Policy: CSULB takes issues of academic dishonesty very seriously. If you use any deceptive or dishonest method to complete an assignment, take an exam, or gain credit in a course in any other way, or if you help someone else do so, you are guilty of cheating. If you use someone else's ideas or work and represent it as your own without giving credit to the source, you are guilty of plagiarism. This does not apply if the ideas are recognized as common knowledge, or if you can show that you honestly developed the ideas through your own work. Any instructor can show you the correct ways of citing your sources, and you should use quotation marks, footnotes or endnotes and bibliographic references to give credit to your courses according to the format recommended by your instructor.

Responses, Penalties and Student Rights: Students should consult the appropriate sections of the catalog for examples of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism, and instructor and/or CSULB response options in such circumstances. The catalog also outlines student rights. Any instance of academic dishonesty may result in your immediate expulsion from class with a grade of “F” and/or other sanctions, as the instructor deems appropriate.