

Television Reporting

Who (Professor)

- Dr. Kathleen M. Ryan
- email: kathleen.ryan@colorado.edu (best way to reach me quickly)
- phone: 303-735-2940

What (Objective)

The course is designed to provide undergraduate students with advanced newsgathering and production skills in video-based storytelling. Students will sharpen and refine broadcast newsgathering skills learned in foundational courses.

Student will learn how to select, sequence, explain and combine images/sound in various forms as well as refine broadcast writing skills. They will be expected to write clear, concise and conversational copy, with an emphasis on creativity and accuracy. Students will be required to shoot and edit video news stories. Ethical implications including objectivity, fairness, balance and other issues will be discussed in connection with story selection and coverage.

Technical ability in ENG (electronic news gathering) is expected. Students are expected to be competent in basic non-linear editing and will learn Adobe Premiere Pro, with the idea that they will be able to produce quality packages throughout the semester. They may need to spend extra time in the edit stations in the Armory to become proficient with the editing software (Adobe Premiere Pro) as well as the JVC GY-HM100U cameras.

The course prepares students for News Team (JRNL 4624), Video Documentary Production (JRNL 4344) as well as other advanced production courses..

Where/When (Course Time/Office Hours)

- Meeting Time Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 pm, Armory 201
- Office Hours: Armory 1B35, Monday 2:30-3:30pm, Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm and by appointment

Why (Learning Outcomes)

By the end of the course, the students will be able to do the following tasks:

1. Shoot and edit news video in a creative and competent fashion
2. Generate and develop newsworthy story ideas, with a consideration for a diversity of perspectives, cultures, and experiences
3. Write effectively to video for the “ear”

4. Work efficiently with a partner as a team and independently to produce quality video news packages
5. Develop strategies for video-based social media news content
6. Evaluate and dissect video news content, news sources, and data/statistics critically
7. Increase awareness of current trends in local, national, and international news
8. Understand and apply First Amendment principles and the law to video-based storytelling
9. Debate the ethics of a variety of video news packages

How (Materials)

The following materials are required

- Keller and Hawkins. 2009. *Television News: A Handbook for Writing, Reporting, Shooting, and Editing* (3rd edition). Scottsdale, AZ: Holcomb Hathaway Publishers
- External hard drive (80 GB or more, USB 3.0 recommended)
- SDHC memory card (16 GB or more, Class 6 or higher, for shooting your stories)
- Memory card reader
- Private channel on Vimeo or YouTube (to hand in your stories)

What's Expected from You

You'll have to complete certain tasks in order to pass the course

1. Attending Classes.

You're required to attend all class sessions and participate in class discussions by sharing your ideas and perspectives with your classmates. Unexcused absences will impact your grade. See full policy below.

2. Completing Exams and Quizzes.

You must keep up with reading assignments. The book isn't just "busy work"—it offers valuable insights and methods for you to be able to produce packages effectively and competently. Periodic pop quizzes will be based on television coverage of current news events (see #6 below). Exams are multiple choice and short essay based on the book. If you miss an exam or quiz, you will receive a 0 for that test. There are no make=ups.

3. Producing Video News Packages.

You will produce three to four packages this term. Two will be produced with a partner (rotating) and will be 1:20-1:40. One will be produced solo (one-man-band) and will be 1:30. The final package will be produced either solo (1:45-2:00) or with a partner (2:00-3:00). You will have an option to redo one of your first two packages based upon instructor feedback in lieu of a new final project; the final project also includes a social media storytelling component (see below). Students are on a rotation because of camera limitations, which will be set by the 2nd week of class. Due dates are indicated below; late work is not accepted.

4. Completing Writing/Shooting/Editing Assignments.

You will have twelve additional assignments, some done on deadline during class, and others done outside of class time and turned in during the following class period. See course calendar for details and due dates. Late work is not accepted.

5. Creating an Online News Presence to Report Your Stories.

I have a Twitter handle (@Kathleen_M_Ryan). Do you? Social media reporting is an important component of local and national news. We'll have tweeting opportunities over the term so that you can get used to using social media for news storytelling. Create a Twitter handle, follow me, and I'll follow you back—and give you feedback about how you're using social media for news coverage. For your final project you'll also develop a social media version(s) of the story, either on Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram or Facebook.

6. Day to Day Monitoring of Television News.

You want to be in news? Then you need to watch television and web video news on a daily basis. Local television news (KCNC Ch. 4, KMGH Ch. 7, KUSA Ch. 9) and network newscasts (ABC, CBS, NBS, PBS, CNN, MSNBC, Fox NewsChannel) are good options. You also need to follow them online - become a Facebook friend or follow their Twitter or SnapChat feeds. Pop quizzes will be based on local and national news coverage - both on television, via social media and online.

7. Initiative and Curiosity.

News requires not only that you are a “trained observer,” thinking about how the things you see around you might be a story, but also a willingness to put in extra hours to polish areas where you may not have the same skill set as your peers. There are online tutorials to help you with advanced editing, and I am always willing to assist if you are having trouble with story ideas or story execution. Plus, I love to offer coaching in voice narration and on-camera performance.

Grading Criteria

Your final grade is determined based on the following criteria:

- Class Attendance, Participation and Pop Quizzes: 100 points/5% of grade
- Writing, shooting and editing assignments: 30 points/10% of grade
- Exam 1: 100 points/10% of grade
- Exam 2: 100 points/10% of grade
- Package - Reporter: 100 points/15% of grade
- Package - OMB: 100 points/15% of grade
- Package - Photographer/Editor: 100 points/15% of grade
- Final Project: 100 points/20% of grade

Grading Matrix

Grades are based on the following matrix:

- 1.** Class Attendance, Participation and Pop Quizzes
 - 2 points per class (if you don't participate, you won't get a full score)
 - 2 "free" points for work day on November 17th
 - Extra 40 points will be divided among pop quizzes
- 2.** Exams
 - Question value varies depending upon number of questions
 - 100 points total per exam
- 3.** Writing, Shooting and Editing Assignments (WSE)
 - 2 points per assignment
 - 2 = Excellent
 - 1 = Average
 - 0 = Didn't complete assignment
 - Late assignments not accepted
- 4.** Package - Reporter
 - 100 points per package
 - 15 points: quality of story ideas
 - 15 points: story development
 - 20 points: writing
 - 15 points: delivery
 - 15 points: stand up (creativity/originality)
 - 10 points: deadlines
 - 10 points: teamwork
 - Late assignments not accepted
- 5.** Package - One Man Band (OMB)
 - 100 points
 - 10 points: quality of story ideas
 - 10 points: story development
 - 15 points: writing
 - 15 points: videography
 - 5 points: lighting

- 15 points: editing
 - 10 points: delivery/stand up (if you choose to do a nat sound package, 20 points will be for storytelling creativity)
 - 10 points: storytelling creativity
 - 10 points: deadlines
 - Late assignments not accepted
- 6. Package - Photographer/Editor**
- 100 points per package
 - 10 points: feedback on story ideas
 - 15 points: videography (b-roll)
 - 15 points: videography (interviews and stand up)
 - 10 points: lighting
 - 20 points: editing
 - 10 points: creativity
 - 10 points: deadlines
 - 10 points: teamwork
 - Late assignments not accepted
- 7. Final Project**
- 100 points per project
 - Option A: New story (individual):
 - 10 points: quality of story ideas
 - 10 points: story development
 - 10 points: writing
 - 10 points: shooting
 - 10 points: lighting
 - 10 points: editing
 - 15 points: web story
 - 15 points: alternative story format 1 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
 - 10 points: storytelling creativity
 - Option B: New story (team):
 - 5 points: quality of story ideas
 - 5 points: story development

- 10 points: package overall
- 10 points: shooting
- 10 points: lighting
- 10 points: editing
- 10 points: web story
- 10 points: alternative story format 1 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
- 10 points: alternative story format 2 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
- 10 points: storytelling creativity
- 10 points: teamwork
- Option C: Editing CMCI Story (individual):
 - 5 points: story development
 - 10 points: writing
 - 10 points: shooting (should include new material/interview)
 - 10 points: editing
 - 10 points: lighting
 - 15 points: web story
 - 15 points: alternative story format 1 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
 - 15 points: alternative story format 2 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
 - 10 points: storytelling creativity
- Option D: Story revision (individual; reporter or OMB only):
 - 10 points: story development (new)
 - 10 points: evidence of new material shot (interview, b-roll, etc.)
 - 10 points: evidence of major revision in editing
 - 15 points: quality of new material/story revisions (including writing, editing, lighting, shot quality, etc.)
 - 15 points: web story
 - 15 points: alternative story format 1 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)
 - 15 points: alternative story format 2 (quality and effectiveness of story for platform; should include newly edited story elements)

- 10 points: storytelling creativity
- Late assignments not accepted

Grades

- A 95-100%
- A- 90-94.99%
- B+ 87-89.99%
- B 84-86.99%
- B- 80-83.99%
- C+ 77-79.99%
- C 74-76.99%
- C- 70-73.99%
- D+ 67-69.99%
- D 64-66.99%
- D- 60-63.99%
- F Below 60%

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 1 August 23	Introduction/Syllabus Review	None
Week 1 August 25	Video Basics I (Composition, Framing, Cutaways, Basic Sequence, Natural Sound)	READ: K&H Ch 8, "Shooting Video I" WSE #1: (IN-CLASS SHOOT): CMCI b-roll
Week 2 August 30	Video Basics II (Interviews)	READ: K&H Ch 9, "Shooting Video II" WSE #2: (IN-CLASS SHOOT): Meet Your Classmate (WSE 1&2 due at 11:59 pm on 8/30, output raw video to flash drive) DUE: Rotation preferences (three) due at the beginning of class (online survey on D2L)
Week 2 September 1	Editing Tutorial (Adobe Premiere Pro)	READ: K&H Ch. 10 "Editing" WSE #3: (IN-CLASS/HOMEWORK - EDIT): Meet Your Classmate (WSE 3 due at 11:59 pm on 9/1, output VO and SOT as two files to flash drive)
Week 3 September 6	Broadcast Writing, Part I (TV Story Formats, Writing VO/SOTs)	READ: K&H Ch 7, "Writing in Broadcast Style" WSE #4: (IN-CLASS - WRITING): VO/SOT from provided stats and edited interview with classmate (due at 11:59pm 9/13)

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 3 September 8	Developing Sources	<p>READ: K&H Ch 3, "News Sources"</p> <p>WSE #5 Questions for Annie Chuang</p>
Week 4 September 13	Developing Packages	<p>READ: K&H Ch 6, "Storytelling in Broadcast Style"</p> <p>DUE: Two story ideas from Red, Green, Blue rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas.</p>
Week 4 September 15	Lighting Workshop	<p>WSE #6 Questions for interview (due at the beginning of class)</p>
Week 5 September 20	Story Idea Meeting	<p>DUE: Two story ideas from Orange, Yellow, Violet rotations; update on story development from Red, Blue, Green rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas.</p>
Week 5 September 22	Editing Workshop (Adobe Premiere)	<p>WSE #7: (IN-CLASS EDITING): Graphics for CMCI story, due at end of class.</p> <p>DUE: Package scripts from Red and Blue rotations (due at 11:59 pm 9/22)</p>

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 6 September 27	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	<p>DUE: Packages from Red, Blue rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback.</p> <p>DUE: Package script (Green rotation) due 11:59pm 9/27</p>
Week 6 September 29	Broadcast Writing, Part 2 (packages)	<p>WSE #8 (IN-CLASS WORKSHOP): Script for CMCI "package" due at end of class.</p> <p>DUE: Package script (Orange, Violet rotations) due at 11:59pm 9/29</p>
Week 7 October 4	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	<p>DUE: Two story ideas from Red, Violet rotations; packages from Orange, Green, Violet (Indigo) rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback.</p> <p>DUE: Package script (Yellow rotation) due at 11:59pm 10/4</p>
Week 7 October 6	Performance Workshop: Stand Ups	<p>READ: K&H Ch 12 "Presentation and Voice"</p> <p>WSE #9: Stand ups for CMCI "package" (due at end of class)</p>

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 8 October 11	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	DUE: Two story ideas from Orange, Green, Blue, Indigo rotations; packages from Yellow (Blue) rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas.
Week 8 October 13	Alternative Storytelling Platforms	WSE #10: (IN-CLASS WORKSHOP): Plans for alternative storytelling platform for one of your stories (due by the end of class).
Week 9 October 18	EXAM #1	DUE: Package script (Red, Violet rotation) due at 11:59 pm on 10/18
Week 9 October 20	Story Development Workshop	WSE #11: (IN-CLASS WORKSHOP): Rough story proposal for final project due by end of class. DUE: Package script (Green, Indigo rotation) due at 11:59pm 10/20.
Week 10 October 25	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	DUE: Two story ideas from Indigo, Violet rotations; packages from Red, Green, Blue, Indigo (Violet) rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas. DUE: Package script (Orange rotation) due at 11:59 pm on 10/25

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 10 October 27	Meet the Professional, Part I: Social Media, Crowdsourcing and MMJs	WSE #12: Real Time Tweets (due throughout class).
Week 11 November 1	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	DUE: Two story ideas from Yellow a rotation; packages from Yellow rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas. DUE: Package script (Blue rotation) due at 11:59 pm on 11/1
Week 11 November 3	Writing for the Web	WSE #13 (Web Story): Web version of one of your packages due by the end of class.
Week 12 November 8	Story Idea Meeting and In-Class Screening	DUE: Revised story ideas for Final Project from all rotations. Packages from Blue (Green) rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback and help develop ideas. DUE: Package script (Indigo, Violet rotation) due at 11:59 pm on 11/8
Week 12 November 10	Legal & Ethical Considerations	READ: K&H Ch 13 "Legal Considerations" DUE: Package script (Yellow rotation) due by 11:59 pm on 11/10.

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
Week 13 November 15	In-Class Screening	DUE: Packages from Yellow, Indigo, Violet (Red, Orange) rotations. Other rotations should be prepared to give feedback. Update on Final Project from all rotations.
Week 13 November 17	Work Day	Final Project work day.
Week 14 November 22/24	FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK
Week 15 November 29	Finding Broadcast News Jobs - Meet the Professional, Part 2	READ: K&H CH 13 Careers in Broadcasting WSE 14: Real Time Tweets (due throughout class)
Week 15 December 1	EXAM #2	
Week 16 December 6	Making an Online Portfolio	WSE #15 (IN-CLASS WORKSHOP): Online Portfolio (due at 11:59 pm 12/11) Optional Deadline: Final Project scripts (I'll only review them if you turn them in by the beginning of class)
Week 16 December 8	In-Class Screening	DUE: Final Project
December 15, 7:00pm		DUE: Final Project revisions (early submissions welcome)

Assignment Deadlines

Rotation	One Man Band Pitch	One Man Band PKG	Reporter Pitch	Reporter PKG	Photo- grapher
Red	September 13	September 27	October 4	October 25	November 8
Orange	September 20	October 4	October 11	November 1	November 15
Yellow a	November 1	November 15	September 20	October 11	November 1
Yellow b	September 27	October 11	October 25	November 15	November 1
Yellow c	September 27	October 11	October 11	November 1	November 15
Yellow d	October 11	November 1	September 20	October 11	November 15
Green a	October 11	October 25	September 13	October 4	November 8
Green b	October 25	November 8	September 13	October 4	October 25
Blue	September 13	September 27	October 11	November 8	October 11
Indigo a	September 20	October 4	October 25	November 15	October 25
Indigo b	October 11	October 25	October 25	November 15	October 4
Violet	October 25	November 8	October 4	October 25	October 4

Attendance Policy

The news business requires the discipline to report to work and complete assignments on time. There is no better time to build the foundation of these basic concepts with your regular class. You are expected to attend all class sessions. You will be graded on your attendance and class participation, and absence from classes will impact your final grades. If you have a genuine emergency or illness, please contact the instructor prior to the class.

If you have to miss class due to religious observances, please inform the instructor at least two weeks prior to your absence. If you miss class due to a medical emergency, you should provide your professor with written documentation from a doctor. It is up to your professor's discretion to determine what constitutes a valid reason for missing class.

Any student who missed three or more class sessions will automatically receive a one-letter grade deduction. Any student who misses five or more class sessions will automatically receive a failing grade in this course.

If you have a temporary disability that prevents course attendance, see the section on "Special Needs" below for accommodation policies.

Be a Good Team Player

Teamwork is crucial in the broadcast news business. Broadcast journalists need to work with videographers and audio assistants. During this semester, you will work together with your classmates as a team to produce TV packages and other assignments. Be punctual and reliable when you work with your partner. Mutual respect and cooperation are two important virtues. Try to coordinate your schedules with your partner's when working as a team. Be considerate of other people's deadlines and plan ahead for your project.

You will be graded, and will have a chance to grade your fellow team members, using a peer review survey. This is worth 10% of your grade, so if you don't pull your weight during the shooting and editing process, you will be graded down.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Please see: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> and http://www.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/policies/student_behaviors_of_concern_rev_052115.pdf. If you have a concern, please see: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-appeals-complaints-and-grievances-brief-guide>

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Equipment Use Reminder/Cautions

You will get to check out video cameras, tripods, and other accessories and use computer-editing stations available in the Armory. Treat all equipment with proper care. Always carry cameras in their carrying cases to avoid damage. Never leave camera equipment unattended while in the field. Some students in the past have left cameras in their cars overnight and have had them stolen. If you are at fault for any lost, stolen or damaged equipment that was checked out in your name, you will be charged the full cost for replacing the items. Under no circumstances should you let anyone outside of class borrow the equipment from you. Ultimately you are responsible for it.

Academic Integrity and Classroom Behavior

All work must be your own and done exclusively for this class. Submitting an assignment that is not your own work or work done for another class will result in failure on the assignment with a possible dismissal from the class and/or other actions provided for in the Honor Code. Cheating on exams, plagiarizing your assignments, or submitting work from other classes will not be tolerated.

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at honorcode.colorado.edu.

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and [the student cod](#)

Students with Special Needs

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (i.e. at the beginning of the term; for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a

temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Injuries](#) guidelines under the Quick Links at the [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, I will make reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students who have conflict between religious observances and course evaluations. Please notify me by the end of the first week of term with any potential conflicts. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation.

CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy.

Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).