

# COM 180

## Intro to News Technology

### CONTACT

Kelly Lambert  
klambe2@ilstu.edu  
(309)438-7139

### OFFICE HOURS

Fell 54  
Monday 1-3:30  
Tuesday 12:15-3:30

### CLASS TIME

Tuesday and Thursday  
11 - 12:15  
Fell 52

### CLASS MATERIALS

Reading Materials available on Canvas  
Phone/tablet with camera, computer to run Adobe software, and internet connectivity

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides students with basic experience in the use of multimedia technologies for news gathering and presentation.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Understand the importance of convergence technology in 21<sup>st</sup> century journalism  
Design and create an effective website  
Capture and edit audio reports  
Take creative and effective news photographs  
Create and edit dynamic video  
Understand and implement basic web design

### GRADES

The grading scale is a standard ten percentage point scale:  
90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, below 60%=F

In this course, simply doing an assignment does not result in an A. Failure to follow directions or meet criteria will result in a loss of points. Students should note the definition of each letter grade:

- A is reserved for work that is exceptional
- B is reserved for work that is above average
- C is reserved for work that meets criteria
- D is reserved for work that is below average
- F is reserved for work that is failing/late/not

Show & Tell (x2)	30
Web Story	100
Midterm Exam	100
Audio Story	75
Video Story	75
Look-Live	50
Website Portfolio	74
Final Exam	50
Reading Forums (6)	96
Activities (2)	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>685</b>

## ASSESSMENT

<p><b>Show and Tells</b> Students will bring examples of current topics to class to share with everyone and present what they are sharing.</p>	<p><b>Video Story</b> Students will shoot and edit a video story with required components and post this story on their website.</p>
<p><b>Web Story</b> Students will create a website and create a journalistic blog on that site.</p>	<p><b>Look-Live</b> Students will create a live shot video that is not edited and would be appropriate for a live social media or broadcast story.</p>
<p><b>Audio Story</b> Students will record and edit an audio story with required components and post this story on their website.</p>	<p><b>Tests and Quizzes</b> There will be a midterm and final exam. If necessary, there will be quizzes throughout the semester on the course content.</p>

## COURSE POLICIES

### *Special Needs.*

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at [StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu](http://StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu).

### *Mental Health Resources.*

Life at college can get very complicated. According to recent research, nearly 40% of college students are at-risk for developing generalized anxiety disorder and are less likely to seek help for it compared to other mental health issues. Students also sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience depression, and struggle with relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at [Counseling.IllinoisState.edu](http://Counseling.IllinoisState.edu) or by calling (309) 438-3655.

### *Illinois State University Bereavement Policy.*

If a student experiences a death of an immediate family member or relative as defined below, the student will be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. The student will provide appropriate documentation and arrange to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible according to the process outlined below.

Upon notification of the absence and proper documentation, each faculty member shall excuse the student from class according to this policy and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work. Ultimately, the student is responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual professor as soon as they return to complete any required work. Details can be found at the following website: <http://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27.shtml>

### **Attendance & Participation**

Students will be expected to attend class. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. I will NOT stop teaching to open attendance again, therefore it is important to be on time to class. It is not possible to participate in our class discussions if you are not present, if you are absent from class on a reading discussion day you can only receive 50% on the assignment. Each student is expected to have all assignments and reading completed before coming to class. I expect you to read the assigned material and come to class ready to discuss the content, taking notes would be beneficial to you. If I notice that many are not prepared for in-class discussions, we will begin each class with quizzes on the readings. If you miss a due date without a university excused absence you will only be able to earn half credit on that assignment. There are multiple in-

class activity assignments that can only be completed if you are present, anyone absent those days will receive a zero on those assignments.

#### Deadlines

In journalism it is very important to understand and complete stories by the deadline. In keeping with this culture and standard story assignments in this course have a strict deadline. Any stories submitted past the due date and time will be only given 50% credit. After 2 weeks past the due date the story will become a zero without the opportunity to make up the assignment.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

At any point throughout the duration of this course I reserve the right to change the syllabus details. Of course, I will inform you of these changes.

Week	Date	Day	Readings	Material Covered	Assignment Due
1	1/13	T		Intro to Course	
	1/15	R		News Tech Show & Tell	News Content to Share
2	1/20	T	1	Media Convergence	
	1/22	R		Consumer Technology	
3	1/27	T	2	Gatekeeping	
	1/29	R	3	Visual Ethics	
4	2/3	T		Websites	
	2/5	R		Website Workshop	
5	2/10	T		Blogging	
	2/12	R		Photography Assign Web Story	
6	2/17	T	4	Identifying Fake News	
	2/19	R		Workshop Day	Web Story
7	2/24	T		Fake News Show & Tell	Fake News to Share
	2/26	R	5	Social Media	
8	3/3	T	6	AI in Journalism	
	3/5	R		Midterm Review	
9	3/10	T		SPRING	
	3/12	R		BREAK	
10	3/17	T		Midterm	
	3/19	R		Using Social Media Activity	
11	3/24	T		Audio (recording) Assign Audio Story	
	3/26	R		Audio (editing)	
12	3/31	T		Audio (editing)	
	4/2	R		Workshop Day	Audio Story
13	4/7	T		Video (shooting) Assign Video Story	
	4/9	R		Video (editing)	

<b>14</b>	4/14	T		Video (editing), Assign Final Website Portfolio	
	4/16	R		Workshop Day	Video Story
<b>15</b>	4/21	T		Live Shots	
	4/23	R		Record Look-Lives	Look-Live Video
<b>16</b>	4/28	T		Final Exam Review	
	4/30	R		Final Portfolio Workshop	Final Portfolio