
COM 314

Topics in Radio Management

Overview/Catalog Description

Specialized management training in radio station operations. Development of long-range planning, problem solving, and leadership skills. Materials charge optional. May be repeated for credit if content differs. Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor.

About This Class

In this class students will learn to run and operate a radio station through practical experience at 103.3 WZND. In addition to learning valuable radio industry knowledge, students will also learn leadership and management style and theory through both readings and experience at WZND.

Student grades in this course are heavily dependent on the portfolio of work and practicum hours with 103.3 WZND.

Required Text

- No Book This Semester 😊

Canvas

We will only use Canvas to upload and host documents. We will not use the forum/discussion, gradebook, assignments, or any other function.

Grading Scale

In this class, 20% of your grade is based on projects and other classroom work. The other 80% of your grade is based on your performance in your position at WZND. This includes the quality and quantity of work, management of your team, and fulfilling office hour and other requirements of the internship.

Fall 2026

Fell 112

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Office: 007 Fell Hall

Office Hours: See My Door!

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in an immediate zero on the assignment and could result in university discipline.

Electronic Devices in Class

Electronic devices are not allowed in lecture or lab. Your grade will be penalized if you violate this policy, even on the first offense.

Absence

Absences may be excused with prior consent of the instructor. If you have an emergency, please let the instructor know as soon as possible and be ready to provide documentation.

Assessing Late Work

Late work is **never** acceptable without prior consent of the instructor. Any assignment less than 24 hours late will be graded with a 50% automatic deduction. Any assignment turned in more than 24 hours late will be a zero.

Student Accommodations

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

Assessment

Students will be evaluated periodically throughout the semester with the following assignments and tasks...

- **Projects and Presentations** – Students will work on two station-wide projects and read one management book this semester.

The first project is related to our long-running voter registration and civic engagement campaign, #REGGIEster2Vote. Created by WZNDers in 2016 out of a COM 314 project, WZND has continued to do voter registration campaigns and election coverage every election cycle since then. For those of you who were around in 2024, you likely will remember “Baby’s First Vote.” That was an idea that came out of this class!

Our second project is open-ended, and we will choose one idea to give special attention for the rest of the semester. Typically, we do 2-3 ideas and work in groups, but our class is so small this year that I don’t think I can split you up!

- **Management of WZND** – Students will be graded on their ability to manage their duties in their role at WZND. Students will be given a midterm evaluation halfway through the semester. There will also be an optional meeting during finals week to discuss your performance from the entire semester and your final grade for the semester.

Below is a breakdown of assignments and tasks and their worth in percentage.

WZND Management	80%
Projects	20%

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 Aug 21	Introduction/Syllabus
Week 2 Aug 28	#REGGIEster2Vote Campaign Intro
Week 3 Sept 4	#REGGIEster2Vote Campaign Brainstorm
Week 4 Sept 11	#REGGIEster2Vote Campaign Work
Week 5 Sept 18	#REGGIEster2Vote Campaign Work
Week 6 Sept 25	#REGGIEster2Vote Campaign Presentations
Week 7 Oct 1	<i>IBA Convention No Class</i>
Week 8 Oct 9	Open Project Intro
Week 9 Oct 16	Open Project Brainstorm
Week 10 Oct 22	<i>COM Week No Class</i>
Week 11 Oct 30	Open Project Work
Week 12 Nov 6	Open Project Presentations
Week 13 Nov 12	<i>Battle of the Bands Prep No Formal Class</i>
Week 14 Nov 20	End of Semester Procedures
Week 15 Nov 27	<i>No Class Fall Break</i>
Week 16 Dec 4	End of Semester Procedures