

# JOUR3410

## Intro to News Reporting

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My Honors Section  
UGA Academic Calendar

Jump to the  
Class Calendar  
and see what's  
happening !

### TEXTS

\* Carole Rich's *Writing and Reporting News*, **6th Edition**. Buy it now. Make sure you get the right edition.

\* An Associated Press stylebook. You will need it in later classes in journalism AND public relations. Get the latest version.

Your lab instructor may require you bring both to lab. Assume this unless told otherwise.

For you obsessive-compulsive types, the **tentative** weights in the lecture are as follows: 45% from Exam 1, 45% from Exam 2, and 10% derived from other stuff. *Stuff* may be quizzes, may be exercises, may be almost anything. I reserve the right to quiz you on chapters you should have read for that week, so when I

In JOUR3410 we focus on three skills: recognizing what is news, learning how to gather it, then finding the best way to tell true stories. Journalism is *storytelling with a purpose*.

This is a lecture-lab format. I run the lecture and teach a lab; others also teach labs. Two-thirds of your grade comes from the lab, one-third from the lecture. Lectures are largely about reporting, how to find information or interview people, labs are about writing, but expect a lot of overlap. Many of you are PR students but remember this is a *news* writing class.

I compute the final grades. And no, I never negotiate test questions or a grade. Ever.

Lecture: 9:05 to 9:55 a.m. in some room of the SLC. No, I don't choose the time of the class.

### Policies

The web page **is** the syllabus. Check here often for changes, random thoughts, schedules, and updates. Here are a few important rules to remember: No cheating, no stealing, no spitting or public scratching, no calling me at home, no begging, no bribes, and no mentioning *Hope Scholarship*.

When class begins, **cell phones** are **NOT** to be visible. No checking messages, no texting, no receiving calls. Try to survive 50 whole minutes without that little box ruling your life.



You get **three free misses** in lecture. That's 10 percent of the course. That's a week-and-a-half of class. On the **fourth** miss it's a drop of a letter grade. **There are no excused absences, no unexcused misses. I don't want to hear why you did not attend class. Do not email or ask about absences unless you have something extraordinary, like Ebola.** On your fifth miss, another letter grade drop, and so it goes until you make an F for the lecture. Unfortunately I can't go any lower than that (don't think I haven't tried!).

have on the calendar that you should read the text, I mean it. By Monday. If we fail to have enough "stuff" in the semester, I'll shift weight back to the exams and make them something else, like 49.655%. Or the square root of *Pi*. Math is fun.

What's an overall A? 93 and up. 90-92 is A-. 87-89 is B+. 83-86 is B. And so on. UGA doesn't have an F- but, dammit, it ought to.

You may make up an exam **only** if you arrange for it in **advance**. Let me say this again but use all my various typographic options to make it stand out -- **only in advance**. If you miss an exam and don't communicate with me -- either by email or my office phone before the **end** of the class period in which the exam is given -- **you may NOT take a makeup**. All approved make ups are **essay exams**. Yes, essays, as in 5-10 questions that require long, profound answers. Feel profound? Here's your chance.

My advice? Be there on test day and don't come with any sad stories. Just drop.

**DO NOT at the end of the semester email me whining about your grade. This is not high school or a private school where you can intimidate an underpaid teacher into changing a grade because mumsy and dady paid loads of money for overindulged BMW-driving yuppie larvae to hang out with other overindulged BMW-driving yuppie larvae. I am indifferent to your plight when it comes to grades. I get paid regardless.**

Here's some advice: save up your absences for that sudden illness or unexpected family death or family trip and spend them wisely. Attendance is expected; a lack of attendance hurts your grade. If tardiness becomes an issue, such as people walking in late, I will use the **Tardy Roll** in which each tardy counts as a half-absence. And you may also get to wear the dreaded *Tardy Sorting Hat* during class -- it spends most of class time insulting the wearer.

**Never ever ask me if I did a roll the previous class or how many classes you have missed ... we don't compute this until the end of the semester. Save your absences for emergencies, illnesses, or those lousy Monday mornings where it's raining and you can't get out of bed. Do the counting of misses yourself. C'mon, you're in college. And yes, 9:05 a.m. is early, but it's not THAT early. Jeez.**

### **Boilerplate Stuff: Read It! Live it!**

\* All academic work must meet the standards contained in "**A Culture of Honesty**." Each student is responsible for reading these lengthy, verbose, carefully crafted standards. Basically, know the rules and follow them -- or else.

\* The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. That's a fancy way of saying the instructor reserves the right to change things whenever he damn well pleases. He's that kind of guy. The web page trumps the syllabus, either in a game of Spades, Rook, or in real life. Check here often. Make it your home page. Tell your friends.

\* Cheating may be harmful to your health. Hollander ignores the official university process for cheaters and dreams up his own awful things to do to those he catches. Do not tempt his imagination. He's a sick man.

\* Cell phones will be turned off **before** class starts, put away where they cannot be seen. Hollander has been known to confiscate phones and do terrible things to them behind that podium. Do you really want to stick that thing near your ear afterward? *Ugh*.

Don't break the rules because we write them. You can't win. We own you.

### **CLASS CALENDAR BELOW**

**Guest speakers and the like will change the schedule below**

	<b>Week</b>	<b>Stuff We'll Do</b> Remember you are responsible for readings by Monday of that week unless otherwise noted below. Beware of quizzes. Also note that your lab may assign chapters from the text at different times than the lecture. Hell, you may get quizzed twice on the same chapter. How cruel is that?
	1 8/17-8/21  Read Rich, chapters 1-3 by Wednesday  Dying Medium	<b>Monday:</b> Intro the class, walk you through, step-by-painful step, through the rules and all that crud. A little on <b>what is news</b> , the criteria of news (in your text and powerpoint in class). Changing aspects of news and the audience, what it all means, especially today. Do we even talk news today, or do we talk stories?  <b>Wednesday:</b> Catching up from Monday if we didn't get through all of it, then the changing aspects of the news and audience, what it all means. Why we do what we do in journalism, and why it matters. The <b>Principles of Journalism</b> . Still relevant today? How do blogs fit in? A look at basic news stories.
	2 8/24-8/28  Read Rich, chapters 5-7	<b>Monday:</b> catch-up on the four ways to find news, discussing each briefly and some in detail, especially <i>interviewing</i> . Can we <b>record someone</b> ?  <b>Wednesday:</b> Generating story ideas and finding stuff, online or elsewhere. Places I may visit include this <b>daily column</b> and IRE's <b>extraextra</b> or <b>story search</b> . <i>Hard news</i> and <i>soft news</i> ideas.
	3 8/31-9/4  Read Rich, Chapters 4, 8-10	<b>Monday:</b> Ledes and stuff. Writing styles. Why it matters. Plus this entry on the <b>seven new rules of journalism</b> .  <b>Wednesday:</b> More on story forms and styles, which I will talk about a lot throughout the semester to the point you're sick of hearing it. The magic number today is 51.
	4 9/7-9/11  Read Rich, Chapter 3-4, look again at Chapter 5.	<b>Monday:</b> Labor Day holiday. Go do some actual labor.  <b>Wednesday:</b> Finding third places. A brief video on reporting and in-class discussion.  Is being first with the news <b>overrated</b> ?
	5 9/14-9/18  Rich Chapters 15-16	<b>Monday:</b> Law & Ethics, a primer. See the <b>SPJ Code of Ethics</b> . Also, <b>read this</b> . Focusing here on the tension between the two, of what is legal and what is ethical. And this <b>column</b> . Does this stuff still matter today?  <b>Wednesday:</b> Finish law and ethics, more on reporting techniques such as observation and interviewing, if needed, or other random stuff as I try to finish off the week. Perhaps stuff on open records, like finding out <b>faculty salaries</b> .
	6 9/21-9/25	<b>Monday:</b> How do we deal with comments by the public, complaints, criticism? Blogs do it <b>one way, journalists another</b> .

Rich, Chapter 13.	<b>Wednesday:</b> Digital storytelling: A day of looking at stuff people are doing and how it differs from traditional storytelling, if indeed it does. Stuff we'll look at <b>in class</b> include <b>Final Salute</b> and <b>A New Dawn</b> .
7 9/28-10/2  <i>Secret test answers</i>	<b>Monday:</b> Review for exam. <b>Wednesday:</b> Exam 1.
8 10/5-10/9  Rich chapter 19	<b>Monday:</b> The beat system, how we organize the news world. <b>Wednesday:</b> More on beats, the news, and how it's done a bit differently with blogs and magazines and all the rest. Plus looking at other stories, how people committed random acts of journalism.
9 10/12-10/16  Rich chapter 20	<b>Monday:</b> Covering speeches and stuff like that. <b>Wednesday:</b> More on speeches, public gatherings, meetings, and the joys of local government.
10 10/19-10-23  Rich chapter 22	<b>Monday:</b> Computer-assisted reporting, writing with numbers, and other stuff. Catch-up with any local government stuff. <b>Wednesday:</b> Covering crime and punishment. <b>Blotters</b> and incident reports and all the rest. <i>October 22 is deadline to withdraw. Flee while you can!</i>
11 10/26-10/30  Rich chapter 23	<b>Monday:</b> More cops, then disasters, tragedies, and similar stories. We'll use the <b>Dart Center's</b> web site. <b>Wednesday:</b> Profiles and features. Read <b>Mrs. Kelly's Monster before</b> class. A great site for terrific narrative journalism is <b>here</b> . I'll probably use some in class.
12 11/2-11/6 Rich chapter 17.	<b>Monday:</b> More on profiles and features. <b>Wednesday:</b> Specialized coverage.
13 11/9-11/13 Rich chapters 18, 20	<b>Monday:</b> Specialized coverage. <b>Wednesday:</b> Specialized coverage.
14 11/16-11/20 Rich chapters 20, 21	<b>Monday:</b> Specialized coverage. <b>Wednesday:</b> Specialized coverage.

15 11/23-11/27	No class this week. Eat a turkey.
16 11/31-12/4 Rich, chap 12  1 2 3 4 5	<p><b>Monday:</b> Share favorite leftover turkey recipes. Specialized coverage, odds and ends. Stuff. And stuffing.</p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b> Review for exam, which is next Monday.</p>
17 12/7-12/8	<p><b>Exam Monday, Dec. 7. It is NOT cumulative but rather the stuff we've talked about since the first exam. Fifty or so questions, multiple choice and T/F.</b></p> <p><b>Warning:</b> This is one of those weird weeks UGA likes to toss at you. Tuesday is a Friday. Does't affect our class but it may affect your lab, so basically on Tuesday, Dec. 8, you go to Friday classes. Who makes this stuff up?</p> <p><b><i>Have a great break!</i></b> (this is required to receive a grade in my class)</p>

Places in class I often visit

- Funny police blotters
- Obscure Store
- Offbeat AP news
- AI's Morning Meeting
- Google News
- ABH's AP National News
- AJC National/Intl News
- NYTimes
- Regret the Error
- Pulitzer Prizes
- Nieman Narratives