

MEJO 252.2 *Audio Journalism*

MW 8:00-9:15 AM Instructor: Parth Shah

Carroll 11 Reese News Lab shahp@unc.edu

This course presents the basics of writing, reporting, audio editing, voicing and production skills to work within the fields of broadcast news and journalism podcasting. Additionally, this course provides students opportunities to experiment with sound to hone their personal storytelling style.

COURSE LINKS:

Canvas: <https://uncch.instructure.com/courses/36905>

Equipment Room: <https://equipmentroom.mj.unc.edu>

Adobe Audition: <https://software.sites.unc.edu/software/adobe-creative-cloud/>

Zoom: <https://unc.zoom.us/j/8683100866>

Note – Classes will be held in-person without Zoom live streaming. Students will be notified in advance if a lecture is moved to remote instruction.

TEXTS:

Articles and audio pieces will be posted to Canvas over the course of the semester. Students will be alerted of these posts, and asked to read/listen prior to class meetings. *There is no textbook, though students can reference Sound Reporting by Jonathan Kern for additional reading.*

EQUIPMENT:

-Voice recorder

Students are encouraged to rent recording kits from the equipment room. Smartphone apps like Voice Memos are also acceptable for use, though not as technically precise.

-Headphones

-[Adobe Audition](#)

OFFICE HOURS:

By appointment only. Email shahp@unc.edu to schedule an in-person or Zoom session.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are provided with two unexcused absences for the semester. After those two are used, each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a three percentage point deduction from the student's final course grade.

No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

1. Authorized University activities
2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by Accessibility Resources and Service and/or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC)
3. Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the Office of the Dean of Students, Gender Violence Service Coordinators, and/or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (EOC).

OBJECTIVES:

- To learn and demonstrate basic audio news writing and reporting skills.
- To integrate your news writing skills with basic reporting practices into the production of professional, broadcast-quality audio news and feature packages.
- To introduce the foundations of creating a podcast.
- To produce electronic/broadcast news stories acceptable under the standards generally established by reputable, professional news organizations.
- Throughout the learning process, we will keep ethical considerations front and center so that you will have a better framework for dealing with these issues as a journalist.

PRE-REQUISITES:

MEJO 252 is a Level 1 concentration course for journalism majors interested in pursuing careers in broadcast, video and audio journalism. MEJO 121 (Intro to Digital Storytelling) and MEJO 153 (Writing and Reporting) are strongly recommended as courses to take either before or concurrently with MEJO 252.

GRADING SCALE

Work is graded according to the highest professional standards. Each major assignment has an assignment sheet/rubric. Grades in percentages are:

A = 93—100

A- = 90—92.9

B+ = 87—89.9

B = 83—86.9

B- = 80—82.9
 C+ = 77—79.9
 C = 73—76.9
 C- = 70—72.9
 D = 63—69.9
 F = 62 and below

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

Assignments 20%
 Project #1 10%
 Project #2 15%
 Project #3 20%
 Project #4 15%
 Project #5 20%

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Note – Schedule subject to change.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Project deadlines</i>
1	Course intro	
2	Documenting sound	
3	Postcards	
4	Interviewing	Project 1
5	Narrative & Tension	
6	Active Voice	Project 2
7	Script structures	
8	Spot news	
9	Newscast week	Project 3
10	Features	
11	Features	

12	Showing vs Tell story	
13	Vulnerability	Project 4
14	Experimental Audio	
15	Development week	
16	The future of audio	
	Final	Project 5

HONOR CODE:

I expect that students will conduct themselves within the guidelines of the University honor system (<http://honor.unc.edu>). All academic work should be done with the high levels of honesty and integrity that this University demands. You are expected to produce your own work in this class. Using a set-up sound bite is a violation of the honor code. If you have any questions about your responsibility or your instructor’s responsibility as a faculty member under the Honor Code, please see the course instructor or Senior Associate Dean Julie Dixon-Green, or you may speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

DIVERSITY:

The University’s policy on Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination is outlined in the 2011-2012 Undergraduate Bulletin <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/>. UNC is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

ACCESSIBILITY & SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this course, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. If you need information about disabilities visit the Department of Disability Services website at <http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/>

SEEKING HELP:

If you need individual assistance, it’s your responsibility to meet with the instructor. If you are serious about wanting to improve your performance in the course, the time to

seek help is as soon as you are aware of the problem – whether the problem is difficulty with course material, a disability, or an illness.

TITLE IX:

Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Reports can be made online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>. Please contact the University's Title IX Coordinator (Elizabeth Hall – titleixcoordinator@unc.edu), Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (reportandresponse@unc.edu), Counseling and Psychological Services (confidential), or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators (gvsc@unc.edu; confidential) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at safe.unc.edu.

POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION:

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on individuals' abilities and qualifications. Consistent with this principle and applicable laws, the University's Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination offers access to its educational programs and activities as well as employment terms and conditions without respect to race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, genetic information, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such a policy ensures that only relevant factors are considered and that equitable and consistent standards of conduct and performance are applied. If you are experiencing harassment or discrimination, you can seek assistance and file a report through the Report and Response Coordinators (see contact info at safe.unc.edu) or the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, or online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>.

ACCREDITATION:

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication's accrediting body outlines a number of values you should be aware of and competencies you should be able to demonstrate by the time you graduate from our program. Learn more about them here: <http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/PROGRAM/PRINCIPLES.SHTML#vals&comps>
No single course could possibly give you all of these values and competencies; but collectively, our classes are designed to build your abilities in each of these areas. In this class, we will address a number of the values and competencies, with special

emphasis on the last six bullet dots under "Professional values and competencies" in the link above.