

Although by far the oldest of the broadcast media, millions still rely on the radio to receive their daily dose of news and information. An NPR newscast may just be a few minutes long, but putting it together is a delicate balancing act taking hours of work behind the scenes. Over the semester, Radio Converse will produce a weekly newscast (on YouTube) dedicated to the news and issues of the Converse community. We will accomplish this by breaking into teams and rotating through a number of roles, including manager, hosts and reporters, as well as others should enrollment warrant it. You will also produce one longer feature segment towards the latter part of the semester that will add further depth to our project.

Course Objectives Students will engage with the basics of radio journalism, developing skills in topics as varied as writing, reading, ethics, and interviewing. Because this class is housed in the Hispanic Studies program, students will also actively develop their reading and writing skills in Spanish through a communicative focused approach—every aspect of our work will be centered upon the listener experience and how other perceive and digest our use of language. All instruction will also be in Spanish. Students will also become familiar with audio-editing technology, a critical component to producing a polished final product. In summary, students will improve their writing, listening and speaking skills in Spanish outside of purely academic-focused usage.



Radio Converse

Spanish 314

Spring 2021

Time: M—W 4:00-5:15

Location: Carm 301 / Prereq: SPN 202

20% Participation & Attendance

20 Feature Report

60 Weekly Newscasts

A	93-100%	C	73-77
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	88-89	D+	68-69
B	83-87	D	63-67
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	78-79	F	<60

Mid-term Grades: Will be determined by work completed to that point in the semester. Because of that, it may be more heavily weighted towards some of the above categories than others.

Course Components

Participation & Attendance: Attendance and participation is absolutely essential given the nature of this class. Your classmates are depending on you to fulfill your role for that week's radiocast, so don't let them down.

Feature Report: In the second half of the semester, you will be responsible for producing one feature report that will take a deeper look into an issue facing our college or community. I'm giving you lots of leeway here, but the report must be **three minutes long** and be a substantive and engaging look into a topic. This will likely involve interviews with multiple people and a good amount of ground work.

Weekly Radiocast: The core of this class is the weekly radiocast. There are five main roles on each radio team (producer, two hosts, two reporters), expandable depending on course enrollment. If enrollment warrants it, we will break into teams producing competing newscasts. You will rotate roles on a weekly basis. The producer will be responsible for the radiocast as a whole—deciding the order of stories, approving/improving the ideas of reporters, editing the final product, and uploading to YouTube. The two hosts will write several stories to read on air, while the two reporters will produce roughly 1 minute segments on a story of their choice. The key here is **RELEVANCE**. A story on the COVID outbreak won't cut it, but a story on the latest announcement by the governor and how that impacts students *will* be of high interest. Because this is radio, the amount of work you put into something will not necessarily be commensurate with your grade—the final product is what counts.

Required Things

Audio-editing program (Audacity recommended)

The Broadcast Journalism Handbook, Second Edition (Hudson and Rowlands ISBN: 978-1408245217)



Important College & Course Policies

Campus Health and Safety for Spring 2020

Students and faculty are required to wear face coverings in all classes, unless they have a written accommodation from the Office of Disability Services based on documented medical necessity. Faculty and students may use face shields to allow better understanding of course content in the classroom while maintaining physical distance. Students, faculty, and staff are expected to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet in all circumstances. Students who refuse to follow the face covering or physical distancing policy in classes will not be permitted to continue with face-to-face instruction.

Converse Honor Code: Please see the Student Handbook section on “Honor Code Violations” (pp. 27 - 29) and be aware of infractions that include cheating, plagiarism, lying, and/or bribery. Rewording any section of another au-

thor’s work without citation, copying and pasting from the internet, and giving your answers to another student are examples of academic dishonesty that are cause for academic disciplinary action. Any student who is believed to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to the procedures set forth in the Converse Student Handbook. Please reference regularly and remember the Principles of the Converse Honor Tradition.

Academic Accommodations: Students with documented disabilities who would like to request academic accommodations should review and complete the form on my.converse.edu under Students > Student Life > Disability Services

Questions can be directed to Sami Singleton, Case Manager for Student Success, at disability.services@converse.edu or by calling (864) 596-9027.

Title IX: In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Converse prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex. Converse strongly encourages the prompt reporting of, and is committed to a timely and fair resolution of, complaints of sex discrimination and harassment by students, faculty, staff, and third-party contractors. Sexual harassment includes quid pro quo harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Incidents of sex discrimination should be reported to the Converse Title IX Coordinator, as outlined in the Sex Discrimination and Harassment Policy and the Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures. The policy and grievance procedures can be found on the Title IX page on my.converse.edu. Reports may be filed anonymously at https://my.converse.edu/ICS/Offices/Human_Resources/Title_IX.jnz.

Course Calendar (check Canvas for updates)

Tuesday Class

Introduction

Chapter 2: What is news?

Chapter 9/10: Writing a News Story

Chapter 17: Recording & Editing

Chapter 16: Story Treatment

Chapter 7: Interviewing

Chapter 7: Interviewing

Workshop: The feature story

Workshop: The feature story

Workshop: Improving writing and delivery

Workshop: Improving writing and delivery

Workshop: Radio Journalism in Latin America

Workshop: The Podcast

Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

Week 13

Thursday Class

Chapter 1: Ethics in News

Chapter 6: Choosing the Story

Chapter 9/10: Writing a News Story

Newscast

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