COURSE INFORMATION


Course Description: Provide the student with information on the origin, operation, organization, history and philosophy of broadcasting in the United States and the world.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will be knowledgeable about the history and foundations of U.S. broadcasting and other electronic media. As consumers of television, radio and the Internet, students will learn how these forms of communications affect their daily lives. Radio-TV majors will be better able to make choices in the career field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Tests: Tests will cover all material presented in class, including chapter discussions, instructor lectures, guest appearances, videos, articles and more. The tests will be comprised of 25-50 questions.

You will use a Scantron 882-E form (available at the bookstores) to take the test.

The tentative dates for the other tests (subject to change) will be February 8, March 8, April 5, May 3. THERE IS NO FINAL. The fourth test is simply the last of four tests of equal value and takes place on the last regularly scheduled day of class.

If you are absent for a test, you will be allowed to take the test on a later date. If the absence is excused there will be no penalty. If the absence is unexcused, the penalty will be 20 points.

Cheating on tests or any other class assignments will not be tolerated (this includes doing work for another student). If it is determined that you are cheating, you are subject to be dismissed from the class with a grade of “F.”

Videos/Papers: There is a Facebook page for RTV 1335.

Classes will often begin with a short video or article posted on the Facebook page on some topic related to broadcasting and other electronic-communications media. **Students may earn extra credit** by writing a 250-word paper (about one double-spaced page) on “Why the subject of today’s video was interesting to me” or “Why the subject of today’s video is important to our culture.” I may want to discuss some of the more interesting papers in class. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT IN CLASS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WRITE AN EXTRA-CREDIT PAPER.**

An “A” paper will be worth **four extra points on the next test.** A “B” paper will be worth **two extra points on the next test.** Therefore, it is possible for a student to receive a grade as high as 108 on a given test. No credit will be given for any paper not earning an “A” or a “B.”

**So … a student taking full advantage of extra credit can receive up to eight extra points on every test.** Over the course of the semester, this may well raise your grade by one letter.

An “A” paper will be free of more than one spelling or grammatical error, and its ideas will be presented in an interesting, logical way. A “B” paper will have fewer than four spelling or grammatical errors, and its ideas should also be presented in an interesting, logical way. Both “A” and “B” papers must meet the 250-word minimum.

Papers must be submitted to me by the start of the next class period following the showing of the video. All papers must be typed, using an easily legible font (such as Arial or Times New Roman) and a 12-point typeface. Your name must appear at the top of the paper.

**You may receive credit for no more than two papers on any test; i.e., the number of papers you may submit during each of the four testing periods is two.** You may not “make up” extra credit opportunities after each testing period passes; for example, if you submit no extra credit papers prior to the first test, you may not submit four for the next test. The limit is two for each testing period.

You can get help at the A&M Commerce Writing Center in Room 103 of the Hall of Languages.

Writing Center web address:

[http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx](http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx)

Because you are receiving significant extra-credit opportunities throughout the semester, I am not inclined to offer additional extra-credit opportunities at the end of the semester.

**GRADING COMPONENTS:**

**Tests (4 x 25%)**

100%

**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken at some point during each class meeting. Papers will be circulated for you to sign, indicating your attendance. If it is found that one student is signing for another student, both students will be counted as absent. If it happens again, the students will be referred
to the Dean of Campus Life before being allowed to continue the activities of the class. Students with more than three unexcused absences may be dropped from class.

Absences may be excused according to the “Course and University Procedures/Policies” below. The instructor may excuse absences for other reasons. For an absence to be excused, a written excuse from an authoritative person (employer, physician, government official, parent, etc.) must be presented to the instructor on the day that you return to class following the absence. The excuse should contain the phone number and e-mail address of the person writing the excuse.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

**Behavior:** “Students are expected at all times to recognize constituted authority, to conform to the ordinary rules of good conduct, to be truthful, to respect the rights of others, to protect private and public property, and to make the best use of their time toward an education.” -- Texas A&M University System Student Rights and Obligations

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) -- Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures,12.01.99.R0.05 Guidelines for Content and Distribution of Syllabi: Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty

If I ask you to do a particular thing in class, it is for a good reason, and you will be expected to comply immediately. Anyone who persists in disruptive behavior may be permanently removed from class on my orders.

I’ll respect you. I expect the same in return from you.

A few other words on classroom behavior:

- Freshmen: **High school is over.** Time to behave like adults.

- **No chatting** – I will move those who chat. This is embarrassing, or should be, for a college student. Brief comments to other students directly related to what we’re discussing in class are acceptable if kept to a minimum.

- **No leaving during class,** unless ill. Go to the bathroom and/or get a drink before class. If you must leave during class, you will not be allowed to return.

- **Take notes.** The process of taking notes helps you to be more engaged in what is being discussed, and therefore, helps you to understand and remember what we discuss.

- I admire those who have jobs, but the **class requirements are the same for those who do and don’t have jobs and other outside responsibilities.**

- **Turn off cell phones** and similar devices when you come into class.

- You may bring drinks or food into class, but use good manners while eating or drinking, and remove all trash when you leave.
Attendance and Participation – A few words of philosophy here:

An “A” student is almost always present and on time for class. It is a vital part of the “A student” package.

You should think of class attendance as you think of attendance at a job. Just as would be true of your employer, I am in no way obligated to make concessions on my policies because of situations in your personal life (he kindly said). As they used to say on the late, lamented TV cartoon “Super Chicken:” “You knew the job was dangerous when you took it.” By choosing to seek a college degree, it should be understood you are choosing a difficult path for yourself. It’s not supposed to be easy. As of 2006, only 29 percent of U.S. adults held bachelor’s degrees or higher. By seeking a college degree, you are seeking to become part of an elite group.

The rules are the same for everyone. It is unfair to students who attend class faithfully to receive the same credit as those who come only when it is convenient.

The only automatically excused absences are defined below in the University’s official attendance policy (items A-D). However, I understand you have complex lives and I will consider other work-related, or family-related excuses. It is helpful if you know that you will miss class to inform me of the reason in advance.

EXCUSES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITTEN FORM, AND CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE, PHONE NUMBER AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS OF AN AUTHORITATIVE PERSON (PHYSICIAN, PARENT, EMPLOYER, ETC.)

EXCUSES MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE DAY THAT YOU RETURN TO CLASS FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE. YOU MUST SUBMIT A COPY OF THE EXCUSE THAT I CAN KEEP FOR MY RECORDS.

Do not abuse this policy. Remember, apart from the defined excused absences below, I will use my discretion in granting an excused absence, which means I may not approve it.

Tardies are distracting to other students and to me. I’ll count two tardies as equal to one unexcused absence. You’ll be counted as tardy if you come in after I’ve taken roll. It’s your responsibility to make sure you call my attention to the fact that you were tardy and not absent.

NOTE: If an illness or other uncontrollable event causes you to miss more than one class in a row, this will be counted as one absence “event.” Be sure to promptly communicate with me in a case such as this. For such an absence of more than one class, I’ll require a note from a doctor or some other authoritative person (for example, a parent) with a telephone number and/or e-mail address by which the person can be contacted. You’re responsible for finding out about any assignments that may have been made.
NOTE: Absences for official University activities (i.e., athletics, choir, etc.) will not count against you. Written notice of each event should be submitted to me.

**Plagiarism:** Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Plagiarism of material is obviously included.

Academic dishonesty subjects you to possible dismissal from the class and referral to the department head or dean of students. At the least, such an assignment will receive a grade of F and will not be made up.

Definition of plagiarism: “A piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work.” This is as true of a sentence as it is of an entire paper.

IT IS PLAGIARISM TO COPY AN ENTIRE ARTICLE – OR ANY PART OF AN ARTICLE – FROM THE INTERNET AND PRESENT IT AS YOUR WORK.

Plagiarism includes taking verbatim sections from the textbook without attributing the material to the author. Also, “sharing” work with another student (presenting another student's writing as your own) is plagiarism.

Most of the time, it is remarkably easy for professors to spot plagiarism. You are much better off doing your own work, both from the standpoint of your grade and what you learn.

**Changes to syllabus:** I maintain the right to make changes as needed, in my judgment, from the stated plans contained in the syllabus for this class. Such changes will be announced to the class.

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES:** Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the director of Disability Resources and Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303-D. Telephone, (903) 886-5835.

**Student Behavior:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) -- Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures, 12.01.99.R0.05 Guidelines for Content and Distribution of Syllabi: Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty

**EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:** Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University’s interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.
COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(subject to change; changes will be announced)

January 14 - February 8 – Social effects of electronic communications

February 11- March 8 – History of Broadcasting and Online Communications

March 18 - April 5 – Programming and Content

April 8 - May 3 – Business and Regulation

Tests: February 8, March 8, April 5 and May 3.
Document of receipt and understanding

I have read the syllabus for RTV 1335.

By my signature, I acknowledge that I fully understand the requirements of the class and will abide by the rules and guidelines contained in the syllabus. I understand that failure to do so will result in my being dismissed from the class.

PRINT YOUR NAME LEGIBLY______________________________

Signature________________________________________ Date _________________________