



RTV 380, SPORTS BROADCASTING, FALL 2015  
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OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 2-4 P.M.

### COURSE INFORMATION

**Text: None. Readings may be assigned.**

**Course Description:** Students will learn the basic aspects of live play-by-play broadcasting; color commentary; and sports reporting, anchoring and producing for radio, TV and online communications. Emphasis will be on practical experience in helping to produce sports programming for KETR, student radio KKOM and/or student television KETV.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Basic ability to announce live sports events and sportscasts. Interviewing and writing for sports. Appreciation of skills required for professional sports broadcasting.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will be graded on the amount and quality of the work you do. It will be necessary to do a considerable number of assignments outside of class.

Here are the required assignments:

**PLAY-BY-PLAY/COLOR COMMENTARY:** These will either be live webcasts of A&M-Commerce sports produced by the athletic department or recorded play-by-play/color commentary of A&M-C or high-school sports.

D (65) = 1 (must be at least D quality to receive a D)  
C (75) = 2 (must be at least C quality to receive a C)  
B (85) = 3 (must be at least B quality to receive a B)  
A (95) = 4 (must be at least A quality to receive an A)  
A+ (100) = more than 4 (must be of A quality to receive an A+)

“A” Quality = well-prepared (know players names on sight, know interesting information about the players and teams); know the rules; keep listeners/viewers well informed (score, down-and-distance, field position, timeouts, player fouls, team fouls, etc.); articulate and flowing speech;

appropriate level of energy.

You may submit only one play-by-play/color commentary per week, so don't fall too far behind. Students producing recorded play-by-play/color commentary assignments may work in teams of two. In such a case, they should equally share the play-by-play and color commentary roles. Play-by-play/color commentary assignments should run between 10-15 minutes. You may be required to upload these to Soundcloud (this will be further discussed in class).

Those doing recorded play-by-play/color commentary assignments will need to provide their own 2GB memory cards.

... OF ...

**GAME HIGHLIGHT VIDEOS:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may receive credit for producing 2-3 minute game highlight videos of high-school or college football, soccer, volleyball or basketball games. The highlight video should each be of one particular game.

"A" quality videos should: start with a slide or graphics telling what game and date is presented in the video; contain high quality video, audio and editing; include some cutaway shots of fans, cheerleaders, band, etc.; contain accurate narration of plays shown (who carries the ball, who scores the goal, what's happening?) Videos may contain a music bed, but a music bed is not required.

A = 4 videos (must be A quality)

B = 3 videos (must be at least B quality)

C = 2 videos (must be at least C quality)

D = 1 videos (must be at least D quality)

Examples:

WTA&M – longer than required:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= lePnkLwO1U>

Delaware – longer than required, too much fan/sideline video, not enough game action, little narration

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgEiisLsPtE>

This is an alternative for the play-by-play/color commentary requirement.

**ASSIST WITH KETR SPORTS BROADCASTS:** This will involve assisting with KETR's broadcast of high-school football and its scoreboard program on Friday nights or the broadcasts of A&M-C football and/or basketball. Options are call-in reports of high-school games on Friday nights, helping gather scores, spotting for play-by-play announcers in the press box, keeping stats; assisting with KETR broadcasts on A&M-C game days.

D (65) = 1 (must be at least D quality to receive a D)

C (75) = 2 (must be at least C quality to receive a C)

B (85) = 3 (must be at least B quality to receive a B)

A (95) = 4 (must be at least A quality to receive an A)

A+ (100) = more than 4 (must be of A quality to receive an A+)

"A" quality = depends on the assignment, but generally: On-time, student cheerfully does what is asked, does tasks to the very best of his or her ability, makes a valuable, useful contribution.

The high-school football broadcasts on KETR will begin on Friday, August 28 and continue until

Nov. 20 (possibly longer if Commerce has a very successful season), so all of your activity involving the high-school broadcasts should be complete by that date.

If too many students want to be involved with the high-school broadcasts or the A&M-C broadcasts, I reserve the right to move students from one to the other.

... Or ...

**ASSIST SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may receive credit for assisting the A&M-C Sports Information Director (SID) at University athletic events.

A = 4 assists (must be A quality as recommended by SID)

B = 3 assists (must be at least B quality as recommended by SID)

C = 2 assists (must be at least C quality as recommended by SID)

D = 1 assist (must be at least D quality as recommended by SID)

In general, "quality" will be judged by your willingness to help and attentiveness to instructions.

This is an alternative for the play-by-play/color commentary requirement or the KETR assist requirement.

**In-class activities; KKOM or KETR assignments:** Video/audio interviews of A&M-C football, soccer, volleyball or basketball players and coaches. These may be used on television programs that RTV produces or uploaded to YouTube or Soundcloud. The athletic department will make players and/or coaches available in the class on certain dates. Students will be graded on their preparation, the ease with which they conduct the interview, and the quality of responses they draw from the players or coaches.

Other in-class activities may include video or audio sportscasts delivered by individual students; writing of broadcast sports news; analyses of recorded TV or radio sports broadcasts; and/or KKOM or KETR assignments. Sportscasts will be graded by the instructor on announcing skills: fluidity, enunciation, knowledge of names and words, level of energy, and timing. Writing will be graded on spelling/grammar/punctuation, clarity, accuracy, and timing. Analyses will be written responses to specific questions related to recordings that are played in class, and will be graded according to the student's responses.

**Tests:** We'll have two tests. They will be based on all information presented in the class, including what is said by any guests we may have to the class, and discussions based on information that is presented from video/audio recordings and articles. The tests will contain a variety of true-false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank and short-answer questions. I'll give you a review before each of the tests. Tests taken late will be subject to a 10-point penalty unless a written excuse is provided from an authoritative source.

Tentative dates are October 15 and December 3.

**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."**

## **EXTRA/ALTERNATIVE CREDIT:**

Also, we may receive press passes to cover professional sporting events in Dallas and you may receive extra credit for covering one of these events, including player or coach interviews.

Interviews can substitute for up to two play-by-play/color commentary assignments and/or two KETR assists. Students who complete four or more play-by-play/color commentary assignments and four or more KETR assists may receive up to two points on their course grade for each player/coach interview (maximum of three).

### **GRADING COMPONENTS:**

Play-by-play/color commentary or game highlight videos	30%
KETR assists or SID assists	30%
Tests (2 X 15%)	30%
In-class activities	10%

## **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

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.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

Refer to A&M Commerce Rules and Procedures\_13.99.99.R0.01 Class Attendance

<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/13.99.99.R0.01ClassAttendance.aspx>

**Students with more than three unexcused absences may be dropped from the class.**

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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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(subject to change; changes will be announced)

August 25-Dec. 5 – play-by-play & color commentaries

August 25-Dec. 5 – KETR assists

August 25-Dec. 5 - In-class assignments

Test 1 – Oct. 16

Test 2 – Dec. 4

**All work submitted after December 5 will automatically be considered late and subject to a 10% penalty.**



MASS MEDIA, COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE

**Document of receipt and understanding**

I have read the syllabus for RTV 380.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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