

Sports Reporting - JR 325 – Fall 2020

Day/Time	Where	Office Hours	Instructor	Contact
F: 10:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.	W628 until 11:40 a.m.	Remote by appointment	Jim Foley	james_foley@emerson.edu 774-262-5081

Description

This class is a focus on sports reporting in its several different forms of media. Sports journalism is unique to other forms of journalism. Sports are often a unifying force, and sports media professionals are some of the most talented and versatile in any ever-changing newsroom. They must be able to turn around copy that sings in a matter of minutes, interview difficult personalities, navigate court records and understand collective bargaining agreements. Sports reporters must balance entertainment with ethics.

Learning Objectives

1. Students in this class will learn to produce both local and national sportscasts.
2. Participate in roles such as writing stories, editing content, recording video/audio, organizing story elements, anchoring and reporting in studio.
3. Understand how to use and apply different technologies available. There is ENPS, Premiere, Audition, camera equipment and audio track recording.
4. Further expand knowledge of sports at local and national level. Make learning, reading and information gathering part of day-to-day routine.
5. Organize a rundown. Turn it into a cohesive sportscast. Collaborate as a team.
6. Enterprise original and compelling story ideas. Execute these stories by conducting interviews, writing the story out and piecing the story together. Research and background stories before writing. Demonstrate proper news judgement.

Classes and Assignments

Sept. 4: We will introduce ourselves to each other and set class expectations for the semester. Participate in trainings and contracts. Discuss sports media reading, viewing and listening outlets.

Sept. 11: Sports quizzes begin. Come to class routinely up to date on latest sports news. Grammar and sports media questions may be included. Discuss putting together a local sports block in a newscast. Producing, anchoring and reporting are the primary roles. Review how to stack a rundown, write a broadcast script, anchor a segment and package a story.

Sept. 18: Sports reporting goes beyond just the X's and O's of the game. That is true more than ever with #BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo at the forefront. Discuss race and gender in sports, whether it be the fellow journalists with whom we interact, the athletes we cover or the relevant movements toward equality. Yahoo Sports columnist Shalise Manza Young is scheduled as our guest speaker.

Sept. 25: Create a local sportscast complete with all the elements. Five groups of three. Producer, anchor and reporter. Individual roles will rotate over three class periods. Record and review sportscasts. Reporters will have the option of going out with a camera or pursuing stories digitally.

Oct. 2: Create a local sportscast complete with all the elements. Same five groups of three. Producer, anchor and reporter roles rotate. Record and review sportscasts.

Oct. 9: Create a local sportscast complete with all the elements. Same five groups of three. Producer, anchor and reporter roles rotate. Record and review sportscasts.

Oct. 16: Explore the world of play-by-play. Preparation is essential and highly involved from the jersey numbers to the storylines. Know the players, the sport and the lingo. Understand the difference between television and radio play-by-play, working solo and with an analyst. The voice of the Patriots Bob Socci is scheduled as our guest speaker.

Oct. 23: Discuss the art of interviewing. Be prepared, yet flexible. Focus on the interviewee. Figure out how to get the most from those who may not want to speak. Talk about what makes a compelling story and how to execute this

Oct. 30: Get to know the other side of sports reporting from the team

perspective. Communications, public relations and media departments are the direct link between sports reporters and the teams. Boston College Senior Associate Athletic Director of Communications Jason Baum is scheduled as our guest speaker.

Nov. 6: Writing for print/online is a foundational skill. Grammar, spelling and punctuation are essential in this medium. The Associated Press Stylebook is always an excellent reference, especially here.

Nov. 13: Discuss sideline reporting and live game production. Get into how sports reporting works in real time during a game that is broadcast live. The production crew and broadcast crew work as a team. NESN Coordinating Director of Red Sox Baseball Mike Narracci is scheduled as our guest speaker.

Nov. 20: Reporting starts at the local level. Public access television and small markets represent this well. Staff fill multiple roles and are subject to tight budgets. Boston City TV Sports Producer/Anchor/Reporter Pat Flaherty is scheduled as our guest speaker.

Dec. 4: By this point you'll be experienced in several roles. Now is your chance to speak up and ask questions about anything. Share your fears, your hopes, your dreams. It's an open forum. This career has given me extreme highs and lows in both my professional and personal life. I will guide you as much as I can.

Roles for local sportscast

Producer: Lead your team. Select and edit stories. Stack rundown. Ensure proper production cues. Time out sportscast. Communicate throughout prep. Review scripts and cues in rundown before show. Meet your deadline.

Anchor: Research and stories in broadcast format. Write shot sheets to highlights. Stay within time assigned. Anchor with accuracy and good presentation.

Reporter: Come up with story idea. Gather video with interviews and b-roll. Ensure good quality video and audio. Package story together. Stay within time assigned.

Grading Percentage

Sports Quizzes. 25%

Participation. 25%

Assignments. 25%

Final Project. 25%

NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS A GUIDELINE
AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS EVENTS
WARRANT

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Emerson is committed to providing equal access and support to all students who qualify through the provision of reasonable accommodations, so that each student may fully participate in the Emerson experience. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at SAS@emerson.edu or 617-824-8592 to make an appointment with an SAS staff member.

Students are encouraged to contact SAS early in the semester. Please be aware that accommodations are not applied retroactively.

Academic Support

For information about academic support in writing and time management, contact the [Lacerte Family Writing and Academic Resource Center](#).

Diversity Statement

Every student in this class will be honored and respected as an individual with distinct experiences, talents, and backgrounds. Students will be treated fairly regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, disability, socio-economic status, or national identity. Issues of diversity may be a part of class discussion, assigned material, and projects. The instructor will make every effort to ensure that an inclusive environment exists for all students. If you have any concerns or suggestions for improving the classroom climate, please do not hesitate to speak with the course instructor or to contact the Social Justice Center at 617-824-8528 or by email at sjc@emerson.edu.

Title IX Statement

The instructor of this class is a responsible employee at Emerson College which means that they are not a confidential resource. They will keep your information as private as they can, however, if you disclose information that may violate Emerson's Sexual Misconduct Policy they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator. You may also contact the Title IX office directly at titleix@emerson.edu or 617-824-8999. Alternatively, if you would like to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the Healing & Advocacy Collective, Counseling and Psychological Services, or Health and Wellness.

Plagiarism Statement

It is the responsibility of all Emerson students to know and adhere to the [College's policy on plagiarism](#). If you have any question concerning the Emerson plagiarism policy or about documentation of sources in work you produce in this course, speak to your instructor.

Copyright

United States law governs the use of copyrighted material. These laws prohibit reproduction of the material for purposes other than the intended instructional purposes of this course. Other uses, including commercial use and any further electronic distribution of the material, may constitute copyright infringement. For more information, see [Emerson College's Copyright Policy](#).