

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: COMM 290
Course Title: Television News Production

Year: 2025-2026
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

This is an advanced production course that covers studio news operations. The class functions as a working news crew with attendance and class participation critical for each student's success. Prerequisites: COMM 120; MATH 090 and RDNG 099 if required by placement testing; ENGL 099 or prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ESL 120, 121, and 122 (or prior completion of ESL 103) if required by placement testing. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Spring semester.

Course Context/Audience

COMM 290 is designed for COMM majors only. Any exceptions would need to be approved by the program chairperson.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: W2 Student should have completed ENGL 099 (if needed). The course requires short written responses and/or short papers without documentation, particularly personal reflection or narrative.

Math: M2 Completed MATH 090 (if needed) - Course requires only the use of basic mathematical skills.

Reading: R2 Before taking this course, students must have a C or better in RDNG 099 or assessment indicating that RDNG 099 was not required.

Course Goals

The overall goal of this course is to teach competency in the television studio. Students will rotate through all studio positions, taking turns at directing, technical directing, floor directing, camera operation, lighting director, sound director, CG operator, producers and executive producers. Students will "compete" for the top positions for the televised news programs.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	# Hours
Overview of Studio; Introduction to the news show environment; Camera operations	3 Hours
Camera movement; Shot composition; Video switcher; Directing commands	3 Hours
Electronic Graphics; Audio Boards; Camera practice; Directing the Opening	3 Hours
Lighting; Videotape rolling; Producer responsibilities	3 Hours
Camera practice; Building CG's; Directing	3 Hours
Discussion of Group Projects	3 Hours
Planning and Organizing Projects	3 Hours

Paperwork - School projects and group projects	12 Hours
Shooting Group Projects	12 Hours

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others. 	
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences. 	

Instructional Methods

Demonstration, lectures, group projects, a final project by each student, quizzes and a final exam should be used in this course.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Participation and attendance	40%
Final Exam	30%
Group Project	20%
Quizzes	10%

Text(s)

Television Production Handbook, Herbert Zettl, 9th Edition, © 2005 Wadsworth Publishing.

Bibliography

Arant, David. Perspectives: Ethics, Issues and Controversies in Mass Media. St. Paul: Houghton Mifflin, © 1999.

Head, Sterling, Schofield, Spann and Michael McGregor. Broadcasting in America: A Survey of Electronic Media. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, © 1998.

Medoff and Tom Tanquary. Portable Video: ENG and EFP. Boston: Focal Press, © 1998.

Shyles, Leonard. Video Production Handbook. Boston: Focal Press, © 1998.

Willis and Henry Aldridge. Television, Cable, and Radio: A Communications Approach. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, © 1992.

Zettl, Herbert. Television Production Handbook, 7th edition, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Thomson Learning, © 2000.

Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual No resources specified
Electronic No resources specified
Other Television studio availability essential to teach this course