

BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Course Syllabus

Prattville High School Media Program

Creating Communicators. Inspiring Creators. Preparing Professionals.

Career & Technical Education

2026–2027

Instructor: Mr. Legg
Room: TC-1
Prerequisite class: Media Foundations
Instructor Email: bryden.legg@achoe.net
Teacher/Class Website: www.gophslions.com
Online Learning Environment: Google Classroom, Schoology

Course Overview

Broadcast Journalism builds on the skills learned in Media Foundations by immersing students in a working school newsroom. Students develop skills in writing, interviewing, videography, editing, studio production, anchoring, and live production while creating news content for THE ROAR and covering school events.

What You'll Learn

Develop the skills needed to produce professional-quality news and media content.

In This Course, You Will

- Research, write, and report news stories on the school, local, national, and word level.
- Conduct interviews and gather information.
- Operate cameras, audio equipment, and studio technology.
- Anchor and produce school news broadcasts.
- Edit video using professional software.
- Work as part of a collaborative newsroom team.
- Work toward Adobe certifications

Projects You'll Create

- School news broadcasts
- News packages
- Feature stories
- Sports coverage
- Public service announcements
- Live and recorded event productions

Career Opportunities

- Broadcast Journalism
- Television News Production
- Sports Broadcasting
- Video Production
- Digital Media
- Public Relations & Communications

How the Class Works

Great broadcasts are built through preparation, professionalism, and teamwork. The course generally follows this schedule: First, students will discuss and list news stories to report on. Then look at sport or event schedules needing coverage. Set up interviews by contacting those to be interviewed and schedule. Go film and edit the story. Put all the weekly stories together in an edited or live ROAR episode. They will demonstrate their understanding of what they have learned by producing and releasing THE ROAR and by taking a quiz or test on what they have learned.

Professional Expectations

- Arrive prepared and ready to participate.
- Meet production deadlines.
- Respect classmates, staff, interview subjects, and equipment.
- Work collaboratively as a newsroom.
- Demonstrate professionalism on and off campus.
- Represent the Media Program with integrity.
- Regular attendance and active participation are essential, every production depends on teamwork.
- Pay attention during demonstrations, lectures, and discussions.
- Remain in designated areas and behave responsibly while you are there.
- Ask if you are unclear about how to operate equipment BEFORE you operate it.

How You'll Be Evaluated

- News packages and video projects
- Broadcast performance
- Daily participation
- Quizzes and assessments
- Production assignments
- Semester examinations

Technology & Artificial Intelligence

Students will use cameras, editing software, studio equipment, and other digital tools. AI may be used with instructor approval to support learning while all submitted work reflects each student's own creativity and journalistic integrity.

Food and Drinks: No food will be allowed in this room. Should I allow food or drinks, students WILL clean up their mess. If I see you eating or drinking in class, I reserve the right to take it up and return it to you later. You may have water in a bottle with a resealable cap. Cups with lids do NOT count.

Electronic Devices: This course is taught in a computer lab and each student has a computer. The majority of lessons are delivered and submitted through the Google Classroom learning platform. Students may use personal equipment at home or from home for projects. Cell phones are NOT allowed on campus but it is OK to film and edit off campus with phones or other devices. Also, in class, you must use wired headphones when listening to music or editing sound, and you are NEVER to watch videos containing fighting, violence, profanity, or anything else unsuitable for school viewing. Students should not be playing games online in the classroom. This will fall under the consequences section.

Consequences: Students who fail to follow the rules will be given a verbal warning. Next, they will be placed on step one of the behavior management form. Obviously, some behaviors may immediately result in office referrals. These include but are not limited to: horse play, skipping/not being in the assigned area for a project, cursing or profane talk, constant disruptions, failure to follow instructions, etc. If students are playing online games, watching Netflix or other movie sites, or viewing other inappropriate things, I reserve the right to write them up for improper use of school technology.

Tardies: Tardies are enforced as is described in the student handbook.

Course Materials:

- We provide SD cards but it is nice to have your own to keep up with. You can get your own SDHC Class 10 Memory Card (type in “SanDisk Ultra” online or in Amazon. 32 GB cards or larger are fine). Make sure it has the Class 10 symbol
- 32gb or larger USB flash drive (Preferably USB 3.0) or external hard drive for transporting and editing personal files if you desire to do so at home.
- Personal headphones are requested for use and should be wired with wire. (bluetooth not available and NOT allowed)
- If you prefer to take your notes by hand you are welcome to use whatever notebook you prefer. All notes are provided after lectures.

Time Requirements: I will give the entire class a time limit to complete your projects to ensure that everyone has equal chances to finish their video projects. When you are working on projects, you must work diligently so as to not hold up the entire class. If I see that you are not using your camera time wisely, I will give someone else a chance to use it, and your grade will be affected. This expectation also applies to group projects.

Grading: If you miss a quiz, project, or test, you have only 3 class days to talk to me about making it up. If your absence is unexcused you will not be allowed to make up any missed assignments. If you are absent the day a project is due, you will not be able to submit the project unless you have an excused absence. Then, the project is due the day you return from your absence. All other make-up work, including tests, must be made up within 3 days of your absence. **It is your responsibility to get your make-up work.**

Late Work: All assignments must be turned in on the due date. Failure to do so will result in a 15 point deduction for the first day, and a 5 point deduction for each day thereafter. If an assignment isn't turned in after 18 days it will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Tests and Projects 65%

Major Note Tests: Major notes take several days to cover and will be followed up with review for the test.

Projects: To reinforce film techniques and the notes from class, we will put our new found knowledge to the test with projects. Project work is considered a minor grade while Final Projects and Tests are both considered major grades and will be equally weighted in the grade book.

– **Effort:** On some projects I will give you a handout that explains the bare minimum needed to complete the project, which will earn you 80 points if done correctly. The final 20 points will come from peer evaluations.

– **Peer Evaluations:** When Students work in groups, they will complete a peer evaluation for each member of the group, which allows me to see how well each person in the group contributed to the project. **Note:** I reserve the right to override a person's peer evaluation grade if I have observed him or her not helping the group or causing strife that inhibits (slows down) the group's productivity.

Classwork, Quizzes, and Daily Grades 35%

Daily Grades/Quizzes: Students can earn daily grades for several activities. For example, daily work on projects & properly breaking down equipment earns you a good grade. We may also have short quizzes on sections of notes to help you see what you do or do not know. Students are **REQUIRED** to attend at least two extracurricular events per semester to cover sports, pageants, show choir, theatre, or other events. Some events on campus during the week may be deemed as part of this requirement.

Substitutes and Other Information: When there is a substitute for my class, generally, a movie or video about some aspect of television production will be shown. You are responsible for answering questions (either via Google Classroom or handouts) and leaving them with the sub after class. These questions count as a minor grade. If you do not turn one into the substitute, you will receive a zero. Remember to respect the wishes of the substitute and follow their instructions just as you would mine.

Course Fees

- \$25 Class fee - Due by **October 1, 2026 (required)**
- \$25 SkillsUSA fee-Due by **December 1st, 2026 (20 student goal to keep our chapter)**
(Fee for membership in the state and national SkillsUSA organization. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student excel. We provide educational programs, events, and competitions that support career and technical education (CTE) in the nation's classrooms)

Please return the bottom portion of this syllabus with parent and student signatures along with class fee and SkillsUSA fee if joining. Please reach out with any questions. Checks payable to Prattville High School or pay through the QR code next to the check off on givebacks. Thank you!

Production Agreement

Students agree to participate responsibly, respect equipment and classmates, complete assignments to the best of their ability, and demonstrate professionalism throughout the year.

Enclosed:

____ Class Fee \$25  _____ SkillsUSA Fee \$25  _____ Paid on Givebacks

Print Student Name: _____ Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Welcome to Broadcast Journalism

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to Broadcast Journalism and the Prattville High School Media Program!

This course gives students the opportunity to become part of a real newsroom responsible for producing stories that inform, engage, and serve our school community. Throughout the year, you'll write scripts, conduct interviews, operate cameras, edit video, anchor broadcasts, and work alongside your classmates to produce THE ROAR, our school's news program.

Broadcast Journalism is much more than learning how to use cameras and microphones. It is about telling meaningful stories, asking thoughtful questions, meeting deadlines, solving problems, and working together as a professional news team.

Whether your role is behind the camera, in the control room, or in front of the lens, every member of the newsroom contributes to the success of each broadcast.

My goal is simple: I want every student to leave this class more confident than when they walked in—equipped with stronger communication skills, professional production experience, and the confidence to tell stories that make a difference.

Welcome to the newsroom. Let's tell great stories together.

Mr. Bryden Legg