**A collage of people working on a newspaper

Description automatically generated**

**Welcome** to COMS 481. This is the class where we work on your portfolio and begin your job search.

**Prerequisites:** [COMS 104](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt8284), [COMS 130](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt879), [COMS 204](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt5890), [COMS 146](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt9629) or [COMS 236](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt3038), [COMS 304](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt5626), [COMS 330](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt7141), or permission of instructor.

**Corequisites:** [COMS 404](http://catalog.radford.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=3849#tt776).  
Provides specific, directed activity for completion and evaluation of portfolio and resume material for advanced students in journalism.

**Course duration:** Jan 21 – May 8, 2025    

Instructor: Prof. William (Bill) Kovarik, PhD    
School of Communication, Radford University

Email: wkovarik@radford.edu

Instructor office hours:  Zoom M-W 9 – 11 pm or by appointment

Class Web page: <https://revolutionsincommunication.com/journalism>

**Class times & places:**

T-Th 11:00 – 12:15 Hemphill Hall Rm 1005  
    or synchronous zoom as needed

    Students are informed of zoom sessions and links via university email

**Course GOALS**

1) To assess your readiness to search for a jo by providing specific, directed activity for completion and evaluation of portfolio and resume material.

2) To assess and (to some extent) fill in gaps in your education in journalism and mass communications, as needed, especially in research, writing, web production, photography, video, podcasting,  ethics and  law.

3) To survey new media technologies and business models, and to facilitate student communication with industry, university and professional groups concerning ongoing training and educational needs.

**READING & ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Ongoing professional orientation / readings
   1. Columbia Journalism Review
   2. Society of Professional Journalists
   3. Virginia Press Association
2. New media technologies
3. New business models

**ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Turn in portfolio & web site to date
2. Work on portfolio & web site
3. Work in student media of your choice
4. Join a professional journalism organization
5. Submit a letter of application, resume and clips for an internship
6. Submit a letter of application, resume and clips for a job
7. Create a resume and other pdfs via InDesign

**ASSESSMENT**

1. Portfolio-building Exercises 60 %
2. Service, initiative & participation 10 - 30 %

Example: Help organize MMJ tour of local media, student media event, or School of Communications event

1. Student media or professional freelance work 10 - 30%

**POLICIES**

**Disabilities policy:**  If you are seeking academic accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act at Radford University, you are required to register with the Disability Resource Office (DRO).   To receive academic accommodations for this class, please submit your documentation to the DRO in the lower level of Tyler Hall Suites 54-69, by fax to 540-831-6525, by email to [dro@radford.edu](mailto:dro@radford.edu). After submitting documentation to our office, you will set up an interview with a Disability Services Specialist to discuss accommodations. You will be notified via email once your accommodation package is complete and ready to be picked up. Once you have picked up your accommodation package, you will need to meet with each course professor during their office hours to review and discuss your package.  For more information and/or for documentation guidelines, visit [www.radford.edu/dro or call 540-831-6350](http://www.radford.edu/dro or%20call%20540-831-6350).

**RU Honor code:** By accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support and abide by the University Honor Code without compromise or exception