

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	International Journalism and Media
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Introduction to Writing for Media and Journalism
Course Code:	JRN 4200
Course Leader:	Dr. Eunice Goes
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	FALL
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the practice of journalism, covering the skills, challenges and issues that its practice entails. Students will learn the different journalistic styles (print, broadcasting and internet), basic reporting skills, as well as basic writing skills and the development of a sense of news. Students will be also introduced to some aspects of the legal dimension of journalism

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to introduce students to the aims of journalism and to the process of creating news in the converged news room. As such, the course will emphasise the need to develop writing, reporting and multimedia skills. It will also raise awareness about different legal aspects related to the practice of journalism, namely privacy law, libel law, defamation and accuracy in reporting. The course will introduce students to different types of journalism, to basic journalistic writing and reporting techniques that are used across different media platforms.

By the end of this course successful students will have:

- To understand the role of journalists in democratic societies
- To distinguish between commercial, promotional, creative and journalistic writing.

- Be familiar with current affairs and understand the concepts of news values and news agendas
- Understand the needs of the converged newsroom
- Have broad understanding of basic writing and reporting journalistic skills.
- Be able to use basic multimedia skills
- Have an understanding of the legal dimension of journalism

Programme Outcomes:

4Ai
4Aiii
4Bi
4Ci
4Ciii
4Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students should be able to identify what are the aims of journalism, namely to inform, to tell the truth, to raise awareness of matters of public interest, to educate and to entertain.
- Students should be able to demonstrate a broad understanding of the ethical and legal dimensions of journalism, namely the concepts of libel, defamation, copyright, privacy, accuracy.
- Ability to write and research short hard news stories in compliance with journalistic rules.
- Ability to use a range of information communication technology skills, namely to create a podcast and to produce assignments across media platforms.
- Students should be familiar with a variety of news sources necessary to write a journalistic article.

Indicative Content:

- News Values and news agendas
- Researching and reporting techniques
- Writing intro/leads
- The Inverted pyramid
- Writing across media platforms
- Introductory Reporting Assignments
- Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Journalism

Assessment

The course is assessed following the University Assessment Rules for IJM/COM Writing Intensive Courses outlined in Programme Specification.

FHEQ level	Richmond/UK Level	Normal Number of Items (including final exam)*	Normal length per item	Total assessment
LEVEL 4	R200/UK Year 1	5-6	300 - 500	2000-2500 words and /or multimedia assignments
LEVEL 5	R300/UK Year 2	3-5	600-800	2500-3500 words and/or multimedia assignments
LEVEL 6	R400/UK Year 3	3 -5	600-800	2500-4000 words And/or multimedia assignments

Teaching Methodology:

The course is based on lectures, class discussions and writing workshops. Students are required to follow current affairs, to read a variety of newspapers and magazines. Part of the class work will be based on these readings.

Bibliography:

Indicative Text(s):

Stephen Quinn, Vincent Filak, *Convergent Journalism an Introduction: Writing and Producing Across the Media*, Focal Press, 2005

Evans, Harold *Essential English: For Journalists, Editors and Writers*

Carole Fleming, Emma Hemingway, Gillian Moore, et al *Introduction to Journalism*, Sage Publications, 2005

Journals

Journalism Studies

Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism

British Journalism Review

Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media

Web Sites

www.guardian.co.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/news
www.bbc.co.uk/journalism
www.reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk
www.journalismfoundation.org
www.nytimes.com
www.poynter.org
<http://en.rsfsf.org>

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry