

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: International Journalism and Media

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: International Journalism

Course Code: JRN 5300

Course Leader: Louise Byrne

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to international journalism as it is practiced when reporting back from one country to another. Students learn about the changing occupational culture of the foreign correspondent brought about by the 24/7 culture and the rise of citizen journalism. They explore both practical and theoretical issues around news values, global news management, and reporting on the frontline, and – as they enhance their practical journalism multimedia skills - students develop an expertise in at least one country which is not their own.

Suggested Pre-requisites: JRN 4200

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide an introduction to the organizational structure of foreign newsgathering and the occupational culture of the foreign correspondent.
- To critical engage with the discourse around news values and global news management in a transnational context.
- To explore issues presented by so-called citizen journalism in a global context, and the narratives dominant in war and conflict reporting.
- To understand the issues around cross-cultural reporting particularly in relation to disaster and development.

- To enhance research and journalistic writing and multimedia skills, and develop an expertise in one country which is not the student's own.
- To use a range of sources (academic books and journals, news articles, and the Internet) and to engage with journalistic and academic texts.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the organizational structure of foreign newsgathering and the occupational culture of the foreign correspondent.
Relevant Threshold Criteria (to get the grade 'C') – Students will show a familiarity the structure and culture of foreign newsgathering.
Assessed in media report and book review
- Demonstrate critical engagement with the discourse around news values and global news management in a transnational context.
Relevant Threshold Criteria (to get the grade 'C') – Students will show an ability to engage with the discourse of foreign news values and ideologies, and the practicalities of foreign newsgathering.
Assessed in media report and book review.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the narratives dominant in war and conflict reporting, and the opportunities and challenges presented in reporting across borders and in using citizen journalism.
Relevant Threshold Criteria (to get the grade 'C') – Students will show an ability to engage with the narratives of war and conflict reporting, and citizen journalism.
Assessed in all assessments.
- Demonstrate a general facility with research and journalism writing and multimedia skills, and develop an expertise in one country which is not their own.
Relevant Threshold Criteria (to get the grade 'C') – Students will show a general ability to research and write in the journalistic style.
Assessed in reporting exercise and analytical feature.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a range of sources (academic books and journals, news articles, and the Internet) and to engage with journalistic texts.
Relevant Threshold Criteria (to get the grade 'C') – Students will show an ability to use a range of resources and information.
Assessed in all assessments.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5Ai, 5Aiii, 5Bi, Bii, 5Ci, 5Cii, 5Ciii, 5Diii.

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

Indicative Content:

- Foreign newsgathering organization and news values
- The changing culture of the foreign correspondent
- Verification and the citizen journalist
- Reporting war and conflict, natural disasters, environmental and development issues
- Reporting global markets, institutions and organisations.
- Reportage and foreign correspondence.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Journalism Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be **Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating**. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Key Texts:

Williams, K (2011) *International Journalism Studies Key texts*. London: Sage.

Tumber, H. and Webster, F. (2006) *Journalists Under Fire: Information War and Journalist Practices*. London Sage.

Allan, S. and Zelizer, B. (Eds.) (2004) *Reporting War. Journalism in Wartime*. London: Routledge

Paterson, C. and Sreberny A. (Eds.) (2004) *International News in the 21st century*. John Libby and Co.

