

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: 5

Course Title: Feature Writing

Course Code: JRN 5200

Course Leader: Dr. Eunice Goes

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: SPRING

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

Course Description:

This course focuses in consolidating and developing journalistic writing skills. Particular attention is given to the development of different writing styles (hard news and features for newspapers and magazines) and genres (reportage, colour piece, service feature, human interest, reviews and profiles). Students are expected to be familiar with basic reporting skills as all writing will be based on independent reporting. The emphasis of this course is on developing independent writing skills.

Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites: JRN 4200

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to help students develop journalistic skills, namely writing and researching news, pitching skills. This course will focus on all stages of the writing process. Thus at the end of the course successful students should be able to:

- A detailed understanding of news agenda.
- A detailed understanding of news-gathering techniques
- A detailed understanding of the process of developing ideas and transforming them into a feature articles
- Developed a portfolio of articles in different styles.

Programme Outcomes:

5Ai
5Bi
5Ci
5Cii
5Di
5Dii

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:

By the end of the course successful students should be able to:

- Identify the different news agendas of major media organizations and be able to distinguish between a top story and a normal story
- Students should have a detailed knowledge of different journalistic genres and voices such as reportage, basic news articles, features, profiles, interviews, reviews, columns, etc.
- Students should have a detailed knowledge of the different sources that are necessary to write a journalistic article and should be able to conduct their own original reporting for their features.
- Students should be able to write different types of feature articles.
- Students should have competent interviewing and reporting skills.

Indicative Content:

- Feature Writing
- Hard-News Feature
- The Hourglass shape
- Reporting Techniques
- Writing Style techniques
- Interviewing
- Writing Profiles
- Magazine Features
- The art of reviewing

Assessment

The course is assessed following the University Assessment Rules 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 class writing workshops, and one on one tutorials. 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. The aim is to reproduce the atmosphere of a newsroom.

Bibliography:

Indicative Text(s):

Henessy, Brendan, *Writing Feature Articles*, Focal Press, 2006

Randall, David. *The Universal Journalist*, 3rd edition. Pluto Press: London, 2007.

Keeble, Richard. *The Newspapers Handbook*, 3rd edition. Routledge: London, 1994

In addition, students will be asked to choose a daily news source – either a newspaper or

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.independent.co.uk

www.electronictelegraph.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/journalism

www.reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk

www.journalismfoundation.org

www.nytimes.com

