<u>**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**</u>

Academic School / Department: CASS

Programme: BA International Journalism & Media

FHEQ **Level:**   5

Course Title: Advanced Reporting for Journalism

Course Code: JRN 5210

Course Leader: Louise Byrne

Student Engagement Hours: 120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures: 30
Seminar / Tutorials: 15
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: Fall

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

Course Description: This course concentrates on consolidating and developing journalistic reporting and writing skills. Particular attention is given to the teaching of advanced reporting skills (such as covering major incidents, public affairs and the courts), and to specialist reporting in areas such as the environment, consumer affairs and health. The emphasis of the course is on developing independent reporting skills so that by the end of the course students can plan, research and write a longer feature on an issue of public concern.

Prerequisites: JRN 4200 and JRN 5200

Aims and Objectives:
This course will help students to develop advanced reporting techniques and to appreciate the role and ethical challenges of the communications professional. At the end of the course successful students should have:
- A detailed understanding of different reporting techniques and of when to apply them to specific situations.
- A detailed understanding of advanced research skills including computer-assisted research, the effective use of public records and databases, the Freedom of Information Act, and other complex information.

- The ability to use different reporting techniques
- The ability to apply ethical and legal standards to their writing and reporting
- The ability to conduct their own researching with minimum supervision

Programme Outcomes: 5Ai, 5Bi, 5Cii, 5Ciii, 5Dii, 5Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of advanced news gathering techniques and processes, e.g. interviewing, reporting and news writing
- Write news stories and features to a variety of lengths.
- Undertake independent journalistic research using a variety of sources and methods.
- Understand the needs of specialist reporting
- Understand the investigative journalism process.
- Work to deadline as part of a team.

Indicative Content:
- News angles and story structure
- Expanding stories beyond the press release
- Public Affairs Journalism
- Covering legal affairs
- Sourcing and building contacts
- Specialist journalism
- The investigative process
- Data Journalism
- Freedom of Information Act
- Media law and ethics

Assessment:
This course conforms to the Richmond University Special Programme Assessment Norms for International Journalism and Media approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/

Teaching Methodology:
The course is based on lectures, in-class work (writing assignments, research techniques assignment), and at least two sessions of one-on-one tutorials

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Mencher, Melvin (2010) *Melvin Mencher's News Reporting and Writing.* McGraw-Hill
Smith, J. (2001) *Essential Reporting. The NCTJ Guide for Trainee Journalists. London,*
Sage.

Web Sites:

http://www.tcij.org/training-material
http://www.propublica.org
http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/programme_do
c_story_based_inquiry_en.pdf
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

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Title change		
Course Description Changed		
Aims and Objectives Revised		
Learning outcomes modified		
Indicative Content revised		
Indicative Texts revised		