

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	CASS
Programme:	BA International Journalism & Media
FHEQ Level:	4
Course Title:	Principles of Journalism
Course Code:	JRN 4220
Course Leader:	Louise Byrne
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course introduces students to journalism, its origins, principles and practices, and the enduring debates around its relationship to society. Recurring themes such as freedom of the press, professional 'objectivity', technological innovation and economic sustainability will be put into historical context. Watershed moments in specialist areas from investigative journalism to war reporting are explored, as well as the rise of participatory journalism and the so-called 'dumbing down' of journalism.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide an introduction to the development of professional journalism, putting its practices and principles in historical context.
- To gain an appreciation of the crucial role technology and economics have played the development of journalism.
- To critically engage with journalism discourses as they relate to society and power.

- To explore the new digital multimedia practice of journalism and its outcomes.
- To use a range of sources (academic books and journals, news articles, and the Internet) and to engage with journalistic texts.

Programme Outcomes: 4Ai, 4Aii, 4Aiii, 4Ci, 4Ciii, 4Di, 4Dii, 4Diii

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/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the development of journalism through history and key themes in its principles and practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to engage with the discourse of journalism, both as an autonomous cultural practice and in its multiple relationships with society, politics and commerce.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the integral role that technology and economics have played in its development.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role and effect of media law and ethics on journalism practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communicate arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, as appropriate at the 4000 level.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a range of sources (academic books and journals, news articles, and the Internet) and to engage with journalistic texts.
- Demonstrate an awareness of views other than their own and adapt behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs.

Indicative Content:

- Journalism professionalization and principles
- Role in society, politics, business and commerce
- Public service broadcasting

- Media law and ethics
- Technology and changing journalism practices
- Economic models in journalism
- Participatory journalism
- Popular culture journalism

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 material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Formal lectures
- II. Discussions of key ideas
- III. Recommended Readings & Websites
- IV. Print Journalism and audio and video texts.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Harcup, T. (2015) *Journalism: Principles and Practice*. London: Sage
Stuart, A. (2010) *News Culture*. Open University Press
Stuart, A. (ed.) (2012) *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism*. London: Routledge

Websites:

www.poynter.org
<http://www.cjr.org/>
<http://www.niemanlab.org>

Journals:

Journalism
Journalism Practice
American Journalism Review
Journalism History

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		
Programme Outcomes Revised		
Learning outcomes modified		
Indicative Content revised		
Teaching Methodology updated		
Bibliography revised		