

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	International Journalism and Media
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	6
<b>Course Title:</b>	Senior Project
<b>Course Code:</b>	JRN 6391
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr. Eunice Goes
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	10
Tutorials:	35
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL and SPRING
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**Course Description:**

A capstone senior project course of independent journalistic researching and writing using the wide range of skills learnt throughout the degree, including reporting, investigating current affairs, writing a professional feature, editing, podcasting, photography and publications layout. In this course students are required to research and write a 4,000 words feature article on a topic of public interest. The journalistic piece will be supervised but the aim is to develop independent reporting and writing skills. The emphasis of this is course is on using the practical and theoretical skills learnt throughout the degree.

**Pre-requisites:** JRN 5205

**Aims and Objectives:**

This course aims at developing independent journalistic skills, in particular reporting and writing. By the end of this course successful students will have:

- Developed the ability to transform an idea into a news feature article of public interest. Developed a portfolio of sources
- Have a systematic understanding of the hierarchy of sources
- Be able to write a professional investigative journalistic article of public interest
- Competently deploy multimedia skills

- Students should be able to conduct their reporting and writing in an ethical fashion, in particular in the areas that relate to dealing with sources, privacy, libel and with licit forms of obtaining information

**Programme Outcomes:**

6Ai  
6Aii  
6Bi  
6Biii  
6Biv  
6Cii  
6Di  
6Di

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students should be able to independently generate their own news feature idea of public interest
  - Students should be able to write a feature article and to use investigative journalism techniques
  - Students should be able to research their story independently, make decisions about the relevance of information and write a feature article following journalistic guidelines.
  - Students should be able to conduct their reporting and writing in an ethical fashion, in particular in the areas that relate to dealing with sources, privacy, and libel and with licit forms of obtaining information
- Students should be able to create their own images and podcasts for the final project. Students should be able to undertake and complete to deadline journalistic research projects and be able to present the work confidently in a group situation

**Indicative Content:**

Reporting  
skills Research  
skills  
Development of a news  
sense Public-interest  
journalism Journalistic  
writing  
Photography skills and ability to match images with  
text Publications Layout

Podcasting

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

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:

Upon approval of a research topic within the first two weeks of the semester, students will meet a course tutor(s) with whom they meet weekly at assigned times to discuss their progress. As the course is geared toward the completion of an accomplished journalistic piece of writing, individual assignments and meetings focus upon the stages of proposing, news-gathering, reporting, drafting, and completing this project.

As this is not a standard lecture/seminar course, students are expected to be reading, researching, interviewing and writing extensively in preparation for the weekly tutorials. Students are encouraged to consult any faculty in the department regarding their specialist knowledge and advice, but are still required to report weekly to their main supervisor for this course. Students are also encouraged to use the Writing Workshop and the extensive help of the librarians.

### Bibliography:

#### Indicative Text(s):

Melvin Mencher, Melvin Mencher's *News Reporting and Writing*, McGraw-Hill 2010  
 William Gaines, *Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies for Reporting the Story*, CQ Press, 2007. Evans, Harold *Essential English: For Journalists, Editors and Writers*

#### Journals

Journalism Studies  
 Journal of Mass Communication and  
 Journalism British Journalism Review

Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic  
Media Journal of Media Practice  
Journalism  
New Media and  
Society Journalism  
Practice

**Web Sites**

- [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)
  - [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news)
  - [www.bbc.co.uk/journalism](http://www.bbc.co.uk/journalism)
  - [www.reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk](http://www.reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk)
  - [www.journalismfoundation.org](http://www.journalismfoundation.org)
  - [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
  - [www.poynter.org](http://www.poynter.org)
  - <http://en.rsfsf.org>
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Change Log for this CSD:

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