

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

3/0/3

CN 4504 NEWS CULTURE LEVEL 6
(previously NEWSGATHERING)

UK CREDITS: 15

(updated: Fall 2015)

PREREQUISITES:

WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics
WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research
CN 2301 - Contemporary Mass Communications
CS 1070 - Introduction to Information Systems

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Critical analysis of the complex processes of news journalism through the examination of how news is collected, processed, communicated and perceived.

RATIONALE:

The course will provide a broad and synthetic understanding of the history and development of national and international news culture. Emphasis will be on the evidence stemming from the academic research on world news organizations and professionals and the embedded social, cultural and professional factors that shape news information.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the critical approaches to understanding the culture of news journalism in both historical and contemporary contexts, and of the uses and implications of these approaches.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the diverse concepts, competencies, and professional roles related to journalism.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the dynamics of news professional discourses in shaping culture and social attitudes.
4. Analyse and apply critical arguments and positions related to news journalism theory and practice.

5. Carry out original research for essays.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY:

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the College, the following tools are used:

- Class lectures, class discussions, class quizzes and video screenings.
- Office Hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can ask questions, go over lecture material as well get feedback vis-à-vis the progress of their projects.
- Use of a Blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements, and additional resources.

ASSESSMENT:

2 hourly quizzes – formative	0	Essay questions
1 research essay (3000 words) – summative	40	Topic selected from a list set by the instructor
Final examination (2hour, comprehensive) - summative	60	Essay questions

The formative assessment aims at evaluating the students' understanding of the course topics via class discussions and quizzes.

The final examination tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3

The research essay tests Learning Outcomes 4 and 5

READING LIST:

Required Text:

Allan, Stuart. *News Culture*. Open University Press, 2010.

Further readings:

Allan, Stuart. *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism*. Routledge, 2009.

Campbell, Vincent. *Information Age Journalism: Journalism in an International Context*. Arnold, 2004.

Cohen, Stanley and Young, Jock. *The Manufacture of News: Deviance, Social Problems and the Mass Media*. Constable, 1981.

Curran, James and Gurevitch, Michael. *Mass Media and Society*, Arnold, 2005.

[DeWerth-Pallmeyer, Dwight](#). *The Audience in the News*. Erlbaum, 1997.

Manning, Paul. [News and News Sources: a critical introduction](#). Sage, 2001.

El-Nawawy, Mohammed. *Al Jazeera: How the Free Arab News Network Scooped the World and Changed the Middle East*, Westview, 2002.

Sparks, Colin and Tulloch, John. *Tabloid Tales: Global Debates Over Media Standards*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2000.

Tumber, Howard (editor). *News Reader*, Oxford University Press, 1999.

Zelizer, Barbie and Allan, Stuart. *Journalism After September 11*, Routledge, 2002.

WWW RESOURCES:

www.washingtonpost.com

www.cnn.com

www.abc.net.au

www.news.bbc.co.uk

www.time.com

www.nytimes.com

www.ap.org

www.reuters.com

www.france24.com

www.english.aljazeera.net/

www.guardian.co.uk

www.ekathimerini.com

www.worldpress.org

www.poynter.org

<http://en.ejo.ch/> (European Journalism Observatory)

**SOFTWARE
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word and PowerPoint

**COMMUNICATION
REQUIREMENTS:**

All assignments using good English (oral and written)

**INDICATIVE
CONTENT OUTLINE:**

1. News and the public domain
 - 1.1. The Public Sphere concept
 - 1.2. Public Opinion and debate
 - 1.3. Propaganda
 - 1.4. Media ownership and control
2. The “Objectivity” of news reporting
 - 2.1. The early days of newspapers
 - 2.2. The emergence of popular journalism
 - 2.3. “Facts” vs. “Values”.
 - 2.4. “Objectivity” as the norm
3. The beginnings of radio and television news
 - 3.1. USA media
 - 3.2. UK media
4. Dealing with truth and ideology
 - 4.1. Press freedom
 - 4.2. News values and frames
 - 4.3. The routines of journalism
 - 4.4. Credibility and accessibility
5. The cultural politics of news communication
 - 5.1. News and hegemony
 - 5.2. The discourse of newspapers, television and radio
 - 5.3. The role of the textual and visual content
6. The role of the audience
 - 6.1. The “average man”
 - 6.2. Profits and ratings
 - 6.3. “Quality” vs. “tabloid”
 - 6.4. “Decoding” the news
 - 6.5. Everyday life and the news
7. News Representations and workforce practices

7.1. Gender controversies

7. 2. Race controversies

8. War Reporting

8.1. History as an example

8.2. Mainstream coverage

8.3. Non-Western sources: the case of Al-Jazeera

8.4. Blogging today's big news

9. Citizen-produced reporting

9.1. Reporting the unexpected

9.2. Alternative voices

9.3. Journalism revisited