

MODULE GUIDE: Hands On Journalism

JOM406 Level 7 Semester 1

Module leader and seminar tutor: Lucy Smy

Rm: MB308;

Email:

Office hours: Monday 1-3pm, Thurs 1-2pm

Session: two hour workshop on Tuesday 1pm - 3pm Room
Conference:

Aims

This module is spread over both semesters of the academic year and has a number of connected aims which are designed to equip you with a range of practical journalism skills. In the first semester you will focus on the launch and running of an online local news operation - for which you will write and edit stories, source images, upload web content and develop the site, working in a group with other students on the course in assigned job roles.

You will learn to use different types of software, including Photoshop - and a content management system (CMS) for uploading web content.

You will also consolidate skills learnt in other modules such as sourcing stories, researching, interviewing, news writing and reporting from courts and councils.

You will also write for, edit and help produce supplements for Kingston University's newspaper – The River. You will learn how to use Adobe Indesign – the industry standard software.

Hands-On journalism workshops will also cover feature writing and preparation of a cuttings portfolio for the National Council for the Training of Journalists' and for the Kingston University MA assignment for this module.

Between semester 1 and semester 2, you will be applying the practical skills which you have learnt in semester 1 in a real workplace as you carry out a two week work placement. In semester 2, as well as continuing to work on the website, you will learn and apply important skills of critical reflection on, and presentation of, your work placement experience. This will prepare you to write the critical work journals which form part of your assessment.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the module, you will be able to:

- Understand how online journalism works, how it differs from print as a medium and how print and online operations work together within a news organisation (convergent journalism).
- Work with others in a team to launch, design and develop lively, functioning pages for an online news website, using industry software, working in assigned editorial and reporting roles
- Create an identity for an online website, building on an existing print newspaper brand, and market the site to potential readers
- Recognise and operate within legal limits, taking a share of responsibility for online content and applying your understanding of media law and copyright to your writing and choice of images
- Research and write features on a range of topics both for online and print media, adjusting your style, length and layout to the medium
- Work confidently as a journalist on a professional newspaper, news website or news magazine
- Reflect critically on what you have learned from your work placement and how the placement will help you towards your career goals

Teaching methods

The module will be delivered through a weekly two hour practical workshop on Tuesdays at 1-pm-3pm, supplemented by a series of workshops dedicated to arranging and getting the best out of work placements. You will be expected to apply the skills and knowledge acquired from the Hands-On Journalism workshops and other modules on the course to the launch and running of a local Kingston news website and you will need to take substantial responsibility in your own time for finding and writing your own stories for the website as well as working in the newsroom with other students on the editorial team in your assigned role, planning, editing, sourcing images and uploading content onto pages.

You will also be expected to carry out research to find your own work placement and devote time to independent study

HOW LEARNING OUTCOMES LINK TO ASSESSMENT

| LEARNING OUTCOME | ASSESSMENT |
|---|--|
| On completion of the module, you will be able to: | |
| Understand how online journalism works, how it differs from print as a medium and how print and online operations work together within a news organisation | Work in class – no formal assessment |
| Create an identity for an online website, building on an existing print newspaper brand, and market the site to potential readers. | Work in class – no formal assessment |
| Work with others in a team to launch, design and develop lively, functioning pages for an online news website, using industry software, working in assigned editorial and reporting roles | Formal appraisal followed by a viva on student participation in the launch and running of the website and supplements for The River - 25% of total mark |
| Research and write features on a range of topics both for online and print media, adjusting your style, length and layout to the medium | Portfolio of three stories – one of which must be a video story - 25% of total mark |
| Write news stories accurately and fast. Load stories onto web pages, thinking about design, picture research and relevant | Timed exercise – write a news story from given facts, upload it to a webpage, find pictures and links, write headlines and captions IN CLASS TEST TUES 13 DEC - 25% of total mark |
| Reflect critically on what you have learned from your work placement and how the placement will help you towards your career goals | A critical work journal reflecting on your placement – 2,000 words - 25% of total mark |

Programme starts in week two

Semester 1 (indicative)

Week 2

Tuesday 4 October 2011

Introduction to the module.

Journalism technician to present the basic bones of the website

Students apply for jobs

Intro to the NCTJ portfolio requirements

Week 3

Tuesday 11 October 2011

Students present:

Who reads a paper in Kingston? What does the opposition look like? What are they covering well? What do they cover badly?

What could we do better?

What is the role of a local paper in the community?

Week 4

Tuesday 18 October 2011

Interviewing part 1 – everyone needs to read **Adams, S and Hicks, W (2009) Interviewing for Journalists, Routledge, London**

Week 5

Tuesday 25 October 2011

Interviewing part 2

Talk about work placements

Week 6

Reading week – Shorthand boot camp

By the end of reading week you should have got your work placement set up

Week 7

Tuesday 8 November 2011

Features part 1

Week 8

Tuesday 15 November 2011

Features part 2 – this may be a truncated lesson because of PA

Week 9

Tuesday 22 November 2011

News editing – making newlists, prioritising news, getting the mix right, attracting readers, finding the angle

Week 10

Tuesday 29 November 2011

Sub-editing

Week 11

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Class cancelled for NCTJ news writing exam

There will be one-to-one vivas with me all week

Week 12

Tuesday 13 December 2011

Timed news writing and uploading test

Christmas vacation: December 19- January 30

During which you will undertake a two week work placement and building of portfolio

Semester 2 (to be advised)

Attendance and participation

To get the best out of this module, you need to attend all the workshops. Much of the work of launching and running our local website will be done in groups, outside formal timetabled hours. You must set aside time to work on the website, which forms part of your formal assessment.

Recommended reading

Reading will be tailored to suit the particular needs of individual students according to individual roles undertaken and work based learning. Further reading will be added as links on Blackboard or given out as recommendations as appropriate.

Recommended Reading:

Adams, S and Hicks, W (2009) *Interviewing for Journalists*, Routledge, London
Bradshaw, P and Rohumaa, L (2011) *The Online Journalism Handbook: Skills to Survive and Thrive in the Digital Age*, Longman, London
Evans, H (2000) *Essential English for Journalists, Editors and Writers*, Pimlico, London
Hicks, W. & Holmes, T (2002) *Subediting for Journalists*. Routledge: London
Mair, J and Keeble, R (2011) *Face the Future: The Internet and Journalism Today*, Amira Publishing
Truss, Lynne (2009) *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*, Fourth Estate, London

On reflection and reflective writing:

Bolton, G. (2001) *Reflective practice: writing and professional development*. London: Paul Chapman
Fanthome, Christine (2005) *Work Placements – A Survival Guide for Students* (Palgrave Macmillan)
Coffield, F. Ed., 2002. *Learning at Work: The Learning Society*. Bristol: The Policy Press
Clutterbuck, D., 2001. *Everyone Needs a Mentor: Fostering Talent at Work*. 3rd ed. London: Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.
Eraut, M., 2004. Transfer of Knowledge between education and workplace settings. In : Rainbird, H., Fuller, A. And Munro, A. Eds., 2004 *Workplace Learning in Context*. London and New York: Routeledge Ch.12.
Moon, J. A., 2008. *Reflection in Learning and Professional Development: Theory and Practice* London and New York: RoutledgeFalmer
Rainbird, H., Fuller, A. And Munro, A. Eds., 2004 *Workplace Learning in Context*. London and New York: Routeledge