

Investigative Journalism

Code: 103089
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501933 Journalism	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

The students must have very good knowledge of social news. Students must have a good background in all theoretical and practical aspects of journalistic work. Students must have sufficient capacity to properly locate, deal with and deal with personal sources and to locate, analyze and use documentary sources of all kinds, including those accessible through the Internet. Students must have an advanced user level for computer software. Office automation (spreadsheets and database managers). They have to know how to use the advanced search functions in search engines, and also the most common specific tools to capture information on the Internet and to analyze its contents).

Students must also have a sufficient command of Catalan and Spanish, in which the classes will be taught and most of the teaching materials will be.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Investigative journalism focuses on the methodology of research work in the journalistic context. It pays special attention to the processes of detection of searchable facts, to the operationalization of research, to documentation, to the contrast and validation of data and to the way in which they are transmitted to the public.

Its objective is to train students to carry out research through a set of specialized skills and methodologies, and to be able to practice the professional specialty of investigative journalism.

The methodological training is oriented towards the acquisition of the knowledge, strategies, techniques and specific tools that allow to successfully tackle complex research processes.

Competences

- Abide by ethics and the canons of journalism, as well as the regulatory framework governing information.
- Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
- Demonstrate ethical awareness as well as empathy with the entourage.
- Differentiate the disciplines main theories, its fields, conceptual developments, theoretical frameworks and approaches that underpin knowledge of the subject and its different areas and sub-areas, and acquire systematic knowledge of the medias structure.
- Generate innovative and competitive ideas in research and professional practice.

- Relay journalistic information in the language characteristic of each communication medium, in its combined modern forms or on digital media, and apply the genres and different journalistic procedures.
- Research, select and arrange in hierarchical order any kind of source and useful document to develop communication products.
- Respect the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Use a third language as a working language and means of professional expression in the media.

Learning Outcomes

1. Conceptualise the theories and techniques of specialised journalism.
2. Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
3. Demonstrate ethical awareness and empathy with the entourage.
4. Demonstrate practical knowledge of specialised journalism.
5. Generate innovative and competitive ideas in research and professional practice.
6. Incorporate the principles of professional ethics in producing information specialised in investigative and precision journalism.
7. Know how to build texts in a third language that adapt to the structures of journalistic language and apply them to the different theme-based information specialisms.
8. Relay in the language specific to each communication medium narrative journalism specialised in research and precision.
9. Research, select and arrange in hierarchical order any kind of source and useful document to develop communication products.
10. Respect the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
11. Use interactive communication resources to process, produce and relay information in the production of specialised information.

Content

1. Defining and introductory aspects of investigative journalism
2. Conception, organization and operationalization of a research process
3. Process of detecting a news item and sources
4. Data confirmation and validation
5. Areas of basic interest of an objective to be investigated
6. Documentary sources and content analysis
7. Journalistic research strategies
8. Legislation that limits and affects journalistic research work
9. Software to protect and recover data
10. Investigative journalism and data journalism
11. Security of the journalist and his data

The content of the subject will be sensitive to aspects related to the gender perspective.

(*) The content of this subject can be taught in a different order if there are unforeseen changes.

Methodology

The basis of the teaching methodology is that students acquire autonomous learning. The academic activities supervised by the teaching team will allow the students to assume the competences and objectives of this subject.

The subject is structured around an expository methodology of the defining contents and the specialized techniques and strategies on which investigative journalism is based.

In order to analyze some technical aspects, the workshop methodology is used, with case analysis.

The learning is complemented by individual tutorials or by working groups. These tutorials complement the training given in the subject and help students acquire greater maturity in social interactions.

All communications and work deliveries will be made only and exclusively through the emails of teachers and the specific email of this subject (in no case through the Virtual Campus). The teaching materials will be accessible through the Virtual Campus.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	18	0.72	9, 8, 1, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11
Practices.	18	0.72	9, 8, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11
Seminars.	18	0.72	9, 8, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11
Type: Supervised			
Evaluation.	3	0.12	9, 1, 3, 2, 5, 6, 10, 11
Tutorials	3	0.12	9, 1, 4, 2, 5, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Reading, analysis and synthesis of texts, preparation and realization of works.	87	3.48	9, 1, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 10, 7, 11

Assessment

- a) The students have to do a research work in report format, made in the real world and with a real case. His weighted weight in the final grade is 50%.
- b) Students must make a report of the research following the guidelines indicated by the teachers and explained in the Virtual Campus. His weighted weight in the final grade is 15%.
- c) The students have to do a practical job of analyzing published journalism research pieces. His weighted weight in the final grade is 25%.
- d) The attendance of the students to the teaching classroom and their participation in the teaching sessions and in the personal tutorials will be evaluated. His weight weighted in the final grade is 10%.
- e) The research work will be done as a group. The report of the investigation will be made using a specific form. The practical work of analyzing published journalism research pieces is an individual work. All the works must be delivered in hard copy and also in a digital file.

f) The evaluation is continuous and the attendance to the educational classroom is obligatory. In order to pass the course, it is mandatory to carry out all the practical tests set: the research report (50%), the report (15%) and the analysis work (25%). The minimum grade to be able to pass the subject is 5.

g) The research report (50%) can not be retrieved in case of obtaining a grade lower than 5. The research report (15%) can not be retrieved in case of obtaining a grade lower than 5. The analysis work of pieces of investigative journalism (25%) may be recovered if a grade lower than 5 is obtained but the conditions of point h) are met.

h) To be able to have the right to recover a suspended work (among which is allowed to recover), students must have been evaluated at least 2/3 (66.6%) of the total of the evaluable activities of the subject and have obtained at least 3.5 as the average grade (weighted) of the subject.

i) A job with five spelling errors will get the grade of zero. A job with signs of plagiarism will also get the grade of zero.

j) All the works to be done have rules of style, typography, extension, names and file format and other formal aspects that are very specific and defined. Failure to comply with these formal requirements may result in a penalty of 2 to 3 points on the work report.

k) Any student whose total percentage of evaluated activities is below 50% of the activities scheduled as evaluable in the subject will be considered as not evaluable.

Recovery:

l) Research work can not be recovered.

m) Students who suspend the practical work of analysis (25%) or memory (15%) will have the option to submit to a recovery test, as established in point g) and provided that the two conditions of point h) are met.

Reevaluation to raise the note:

n) The student wishing to upload the final grade of the subject may request a re-evaluation test under the following conditions:

1) Have obtained a grade equal to or greater than 8 as the average of the final grade of the subject.

2) The grade obtained in the test that will be reevaluated will be the final grade, whether it is a grade greater than or less than 8.

Review of notes:

s) Since the notes are published (on the bulletin board), students have a week to request, by e-mail, a tutorial with the teacher to analyze and discuss the test score assessed. If the request is made later than one week after the publication of the notes, it will not be admitted.

Calendar of evaluable tests:

In the teaching programming of this subject, the calendar of evaluable tests is the following:

1.- Search and analyze a journalistic piece, published in a Press or TV format, that can be considered as a research journalism work. The rules for doing this work are specified in the document entitled Expanded Teaching Guide (Virtual Campus). The work (individual) is commissioned in session 2 and is delivered and defended publicly in session 11.

2.- Realize a research report in the real world. The rules for doing this work are specified in the document entitled Expanded Teaching Guide (Virtual Campus). The subject of the research work (as a team) must be approved, and work must also begin, in session 6 (as maximum term), and in session 16 the finished work is delivered and defended publicly in the teaching classroom.

3.- The report has the same execution and delivery schedule as the report.

(*) This English translation has been carried out automatically with Google Translate. In many points it is a summary of the Teaching Guide in Spanish or Catalan. In case of any doubt or discrepancy, the valid reference text is only the Teaching Guide in Spanish or in Catalan.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exercise of analysis of a work of investigative journalism	25%	1	0.04	9, 1, 4, 2
Participation in the classroom, in debates and tutorials	10 %	0	0	9, 8, 1, 4, 2, 5, 11
Report of the research work	15 %	1	0.04	9, 1, 4, 2, 5, 6, 11
Research report	50%	1	0.04	9, 8, 3, 4, 2, 5, 6, 10, 7, 11

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