

Science and Health Journalism

Code: 104988
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2501933 Journalism	OT	3	1
2501933 Journalism	OT	4	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

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

Teachers

Jordi Badia Perea

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites, but it is understood that the students have obtained in the preceding courses knowledge derived from subjects such as Journalistic Writing (I and II), Sources, Techniques and Organization of Journalistic Work, Audiovisual Languages, Production, Expression and Product Design Journalistic, Theories of Communication, Structure of Communication, among others that can provide a theoretical and practical basis. These subjects provide the necessary knowledge and skills to correctly follow the subject of Scientific and Health Journalism since students will have a theoretical and practical basis on which to develop.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objectives of the course are:

- a) Explain the different approaches of journalism to scientific and health knowledge.
- b) Encourage students to integrate and work with complex knowledge in specific natural, social, exact, and life sciences areas.
- c) Develop skills to communicate pieces of information, ideas, problems, and solutions to the general or specialized public.
- d) Work critical capacity to interpret relevant data, and search for information and specific sources in the scientific and health fields.

The content of the course will apply the gender perspective in a transversal way. It does so precisely from the following aspects:

- a) Knowledge about the inclusion of the gender perspective in journalistic texts on science and health issues.
- b) Identification and recognition of the debate on gender diversity in science.
- c) Encouraging reflection on the current state of news production on scientific and health issues from a gender-inclusive perspective.

Competences

Journalism

- Abide by ethics and the canons of journalism, as well as the regulatory framework governing information.
- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Be familiar with and apply the theoretical and practical foundations of journalistic writing and narrative and its applications in the different genres, media and formats.
- Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
- Differentiate the discipline's 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 media's structure.
- Identify modern journalistic traditions in Catalonia, Spain and worldwide and their specific forms of expression, as well as their historic development and the theories and concepts that study them.
- Introduce changes in the methods and processes of the field of knowledge to provide innovative responses to the needs and demands of society.
- 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.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use a third language as a working language and means of professional expression in the media.
- Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the sex- or gender-based inequalities and the gender biases present in one's own area of knowledge.
2. Communicate using language that is not sexist or discriminatory.
3. Compare the different traditions in handling specialised information.
4. Conceptualise the theories and techniques of specialised journalism.
5. Consider how gender stereotypes and roles impinge on the exercise of the profession.
6. Critically analyse the principles, values and procedures that govern the exercise of the profession.
7. Demonstrate a critical and self-critical capacity.
8. Demonstrate practical knowledge of specialised journalism.
9. Distinguish theories of journalistic writing and narrative to apply them to the different theme-based information specialisms.
10. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
11. Identify situations in which a change or improvement is needed.
12. Incorporate the principles of professional ethics in developing narrative journalism specialised in scientific information.
13. 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.
14. Propose projects and actions that incorporate the gender perspective.
15. Relay in the language specific to each communication medium narrative journalism specialised in scientific information.

16. Research, select and arrange in hierarchical order any kind of source and useful document to develop communication products.
17. Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
18. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
19. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
20. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
21. Use interactive communication resources to process, produce and relay information in the production of specialised information.
22. Value diversity and multiculturalism as a foundation for teamwork.
23. Weigh up the impact of any long- or short-term difficulty, harm or discrimination that could be caused to certain persons or groups by the actions or projects.

Content

1. Introduction to science and health journalism

- Health and science in the media
- What is scientific knowledge, and how is it communicated?
- The communication of science and health as production of meanings
- Communicating science to active audiences.

2. The scientific method and pseudosciences

- The foundations of the scientific method
- Scientific rationality and falsification (K. Popper)
- Science popularizers and the knowledge of science
- Pseudosciences and disinformation.

3. The sources of information for Scientific and Health Journalism

- Sources problems and difficulties
- News agencies and uncritical reproduction
- The difficulties and challenges of trust, confidence, and verification
- The structure and functioning of the Spanish and European scientific system.

4. The construction of scientific and health news

- Scientific language and journalistic language
- Style and figures of speech (metaphors, analogies, paradoxes)
- Statistics and databases
- Scientific articles and the scientific community.

5. The challenge of images in Scientific and Health Journalism

- Infographics, charts, and data communication
- Photography as a communication tool
- The ethical and interpretive limits of visual resources.

6. Informative genres applied to Scientific and Health Journalism

- The reports
- The interviews
- The chronicles and other genres of opinion
- Biographies and life stories.

The calendar will be available on the first day of class. Students will find all information on the Virtual Campus: the description of the activities, teaching materials, and any necessary information for the proper follow-up of the subject.

Methodology

The teaching methodology will consist of face-to-face activities, supervised activities, and directed and autonomous work.

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved within the calendar established by the center/degree for the students to complete the surveys to evaluate the teaching staff's performance and the subject/module.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Independent work	42	1.68	6, 16, 3, 15, 7, 9, 11, 14, 20, 17, 18, 13, 21, 5
Lectures	15	0.6	6, 1, 16, 3, 15, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 20, 17, 5
Seminars	33	1.32	16, 15, 2, 8, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, 19, 17, 18, 13, 21, 22
Tuitions	8	0.32	7, 12, 17

Assessment

THE EVALUATION ACTIVITIES ARE:

- Activity A - Exam, 20% of the final grade
- Activity B - Practical Activities, 50% of the final grade
- Activity C - Assignment, 30% of the final grade...

To pass the course, a minimum grade of 5.0 must be obtained for each of activities A, B, and C.

RE-EVALUATION:

Students will have the right to be re-evaluated for the subject if they have been evaluated from the set of activities, the weight equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total grade for the subject. In order to be able to present the re-evaluation of the subject, it will have had to obtain the average mark of 3.5. The activity that is excluded from the recovery process is coursework (Assignment).

SECOND REGISTRATION:

In the case of second registration, students may take a single synthesis test that will consist of a short content test with a theoretical and practical section, using the bibliography indicated by the teaching staff and a proposal for a research report on a scientific topic.

The qualification of the subject will correspond to the grade obtained on the synthesis test.

PLAGIARISM:

In the event that the student performs any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation of an evaluation act, this evaluation act will be graded with 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that could be instructed. In the event, that several irregularities occur in the evaluation acts of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assignment	30%	20	0.8	6, 1, 16, 3, 15, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 18, 21, 5, 23, 22
Practicies	50%	30	1.2	6, 16, 15, 2, 8, 7, 10, 12, 14, 20, 19, 18, 13, 21, 23, 22
Test	20%	2	0.08	6, 3, 4, 7, 11, 19, 17, 23

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Software

Text editing software: Word or similar

Data analysis software: Excel or similar