

Proximity Journalism

Code: 103090
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2501933 Journalism	OT	3
2501933 Journalism	OT	4

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

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Prerequisites

Students interested in taking the course must master the journalistic expression, with journalistic genres interview, report or journalistic data report, and have a certain knowledge about the structure, functioning and organization of the media in Catalonia and Spain.

Students must have an interest in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the territorial areas of proximity, and for the role played by the specialized media in current information and the communication of these areas.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The Proximity Journalism course proposes to offer basic knowledge on key issues in proximity areas (local politics and administrations, municipal economy, urban planning, cultural activities and citizen participation, etc.), subjects that are the raw material of the proximity media.

The subject also deals with information to reflect on the structure and functioning of proximity media in Catalonia and understand its evolution since the end of the 70s of the last century, its current situation and its future challenges.

Competences

Journalism

- Abide by ethics and the canons of journalism, as well as the regulatory framework governing information.
- 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.
- 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.

Learning Outcomes

1. Conceptualise the theories and techniques of specialised journalism.
2. Demonstrate practical knowledge of specialised journalism.
3. Incorporate the principles of professional ethics in developing narrative journalism specialised in cultural information and critique.
4. Relay in the language specific to each communication medium narrative journalism specialised in local information.
5. Use interactive communication resources to process, produce and relay information in the production of specialised information.

Content

THEORETICAL SECTIONS

Topic 1. Introduction to local journalism. Theoretical approaches and professional practice.

Topic 2. Local information and local media ecosystem in Catalonia. Typology of local media and impact of communication policies on the local media map.

Topic 3. Local community media: from 'alegality' to legalization?

Topic 4. Local radio: strong presence of municipal stations.

Topic 5. Local televisions (DTT and online).

Topic 6. The Xarxa Audiovisual Local (XAL) and the Agència Catalana de Notícies (ACN).

Topic 7. The local press.

Topic 8. Digitization of local media and digital native media.

KNOWLEDGE ON SUBJECTS OF PROXIMITY AREAS

THEMATIC 1.- The State at the local level. Competences of the local Administration. Policy or management? Organization of a city council. Municipal areas and macro-areas. The complexity of the workforce

THEMATIC 2.- Municipal economy. Municipal budgets Income and expenses. Municipal organizations of the economic field: joint ventures, institutes, autonomous bodies ... Municipal financing.

THEMATIC 3.- Urbanism, basic municipal competence. Politics, ideology and urbanism. The concept of a territorial "model" or city. Urban planning figures and planning. Administrations and town planning.

THEMATIC 4.- Municipal elections. Political and electoral systems. Circumscriptions and the Hondt formula. Closed lists, open and unlocked. Supramunicipal administrations: county councils and councils (institutions without direct election).

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classroom practices (application of specific knowledge of proximity journalism for the elaboration of practices)	18	0.72	2, 3, 4, 5
Seminars (knowledge of basic subjects of the means of proximity: local administration, local politics, municipal economy and urban planning)	18	0.72	2, 4, 5
Theoretical classes (structure and evolution of the proximity media)	14	0.56	1, 2
Type: Supervised			
Tutorial sessions and evaluation of journalistic practices and the complementary test	10	0.4	2, 4, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Lectures, analysis of documentation, preparation and performance of journalistic practices in areas of proximity	90	3.6	2, 4, 5

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

THEORY AND PRACTICE:

The theory sessions will focus on the contents defined as topics, that is to say the evolution of local media and its structure, and will be for the whole group during the first hour. The group is divided into 2 subgroups in the laboratory practical sessions, which will take place in conventional classrooms or seminars (not in computer classrooms), each in charge of a professor.

The sessions of the course are basically expository in the theoretical classes, including the reflection of the students; and, on the seminars, after the teacher's initial exposition there will be discussion with the students and debate about practices, to offer basic knowledge of habitual subjects in the journalism of proximity.

During some sessions, specific parameters of the practices that students have to carry out during the semester are specified.

Some sessions may include presentations by active professionals in the local journalism and the local media sector, in order to explain examples and challenges of their professional practice, and bring the reality of the sector closer to the students.

PRACTICES:

Practices are made on a specific area of proximity selected by the student (a municipality, a district, a district or area of Barcelona, etc.), which will be elaborated as journalistic pieces (the specific requirements will be precized at the beginning of the course).

Some practices can be drawn between two or three people if there is a coincidence in the chosen subject or the territorial scope. The practices will be basically assessed for their content but also for their formal correction.

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The approach of the subject will incorporate the gender perspective in all possible aspects, from the contents to the methodologies applied to the dynamics of work and student participation in the classroom, so as to facilitate an egalitarian interaction.

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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Active participation in classes and seminars	5%	0	0	1, 2
Examination of contents taught in seminars	20%	0	0	2
Examination of contents taught in theoretic sessions	20%	0	0	2, 3
Groupal reflection work related to theoretical contents	15%	0	0	1, 2, 4
Journalistic practices (2 journalistic pieces on specific areas of proximity and chosen by students)	40%	0	0	2, 3, 4, 5

Competences in this subject will be assessed with the following activities:

a) Theoretical block:

a.1. Exam on the contents taught in theory (20%). The exam must be passed, and it can be recovered during the reassessment period.

a.2. A group work related to the theoretical content taught in the theory sessions (15%). It will involve applying the theoretical content and demonstrating understanding, as well as demonstrating the student's capacity for reflection, and an oral presentation will be required. This activity will not be recoverable during the reassessment period (it is not necessary to get a minimum grade for this assessment activity to pass the subject and, if it is suspended, it will be averaged anyway).

b) Block of seminars:

b.1. Two journalistic pieces on local topics (40% of the mark: 20% each piece). They are delivered throughout the course (dates will be announced at the beginning of the course) and can be done in pairs or groups. It is required to approve both parts to pass the subject. If one is suspended, it can be reworked and delivered during the reassessment period (if it is not recovered, the grade of the suspended report will remain as the final mark of the subject, or the average if both are suspended).

b.2. Exam on the contents taught in the seminar (20%). The exam must be passed, and it can be recovered during the reassessment period.

b.3. Intervention in seminars (5%). No minimum grade is required and cannot be reevaluated. It involves attendance and active participation in the sessions.

The dates of all assignments and assessment activities will be announced at the beginning of the year and will be made public on the Virtual Campus.

In order to opt for re-evaluation of the assessment activities that allow it, students must have submitted/attended to that assessment activity on the date set by the teaching staff (otherwise, they will not have the option to recover it) .

Important notice: the student who commits any irregularity (copying, plagiarism, impersonation...) will have a grade of 0 in the affected practice. In case of several irregularities, the overall grade of the subject will be 0.

Single evaluation:

On a single date, which will be announced at the beginning of the course, students who take the single evaluation modality will have to carry out the following assessment activities:

1. Exam on the contents taught in theory (20%). The exam must be passed, and it can be recovered during the reassessment period.
2. Presentation of an individual work related to the theoretical content taught in the theory sessions (20% of the grade). It will involve applying the theoretical content and demonstrating understanding, as well as demonstrate the student's capacity for reflection, and an oral presentation will be required. This activity will not be recoverable during the reassessment period (it is not necessary to get a minimum grade for this assessment activity to pass the subject and, if it is suspended, it will be averaged anyway).
3. Take the exam on the content taught in the seminar (20%). The exam must be passed, and it can be recovered during the reassessment period.
4. Deliver two journalistic pieces on local issues (40% of the grade: 20% each piece). They are not recoverable.

Students who follow the single evaluation modality will have the option of reevaluate assessment activities 1 and 3 on the reassessment date (exam on content taught in theory and exam on content taught in seminar). Neither the individual work related to the theoretical content nor the two journalistic pieces can be recovered. The reason is because doing work of this nature is practically impossible with the time we have for the re-evaluation.

Important notice: the student who commits any irregularity (copying, plagiarism, impersonation...) will have a grade of 0 in the affected practice. In case of several irregularities, the overall grade of the subject will be 0.

Bibliography

Basic:

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Nielsen, Rasmus Kleis (Ed.). (2019). *Local journalism: the decline of newspapers and the rise of digital media*. I.B. Tauris. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9780755695171>

Complementary:

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Gifreu, Josep & Corominas, Maria (1991). *Construir l'espai català de comunicació*. Barcelona: Generalitat de Catalunya, Centre d'Investigació en la Comunicació.

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Video:

García, Antonio (2018). Cómo el periodismo local puede transformar comunidades. Antonio García Encinas. TEDxValladolid [Vídeo]. Recuperat de <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuVB0u30Dtc>

Software

Is not necessary especific software.

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	11	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	12	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed