1. **Title of the module**

JOUR5170 (JN517) Dissertation in Journalism

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Centre for Journalism

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

45 credits (22.5 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn and Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

BA (Hons) Journalism

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Identify, plan and sustain a supervised study in a specific area of Journalism
3. Understand the epistemological and methodological issues involved in research projects in journalism, and the relationship between these concepts
4. Conceptualise a question for investigation in the field of multimedia journalism, and to design the appropriate research methodology
5. Deploy the appropriate concepts in the study of journalism
6. Evaluate and interpret practical and/or theoretical concepts and principles relating to journalism
7. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
8. Work with theoretical knowledge and apply theory to practical issues
9. Show awareness of the ethical, theoretical, epistemological and methodological dimensions of the scholarly work done in their discipline in general and their own work
10. Undertake analysis of existing areas of knowledge and make carefully constructed arguments
11. Achieve a level of conceptual understanding that will allow them to critically evaluate research, policies and practices
12. Use the libraries, the internet, bibliographic search engines, online resources, and effectively conduct research
13. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

Students will build on and integrate their knowledge, skills and experience by undertaking an independent research project in the form of a supervised dissertation. Research can be undertaken in a broad range of areas, however it is expected that the content of the thesis will demonstrate clear links to other elements of the programme, for example, focusing on an aspect of the cultural and/or institutional role of journalism. The finished dissertation/project will therefore represent the synthesis and culmination of the skills and knowledge gained elsewhere on the programme.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Altheide, D.L and Schneider, C.J. (2013), Qualitative Media Analysis. London: Sage

Atton, C. (2002) Alternative Media, London: Sage

Bignell, J. (1997) Media Semiotics: An Introduction, Manchester: Manchester University Press

Brennen, B. (2013) Qualitative Research Methods for Media Studies, New York: Routledge

Frost, C. (2000) Media Ethics and Self-Regulation, Harlow: Pearson Education

Gunter, B. (2000) Media Research Methods: Measuring Audiences, Reactions and Impact, London: Sage

Pink, S. (2007) Doing Visual Ethnography: Images, Media, and Representation in Research, London: Sage

Reeves, I (2014) The Newspapers Handbook, London: Routledge

Walliman, N.B. (2001) Your Research Project: A Step-by-Step Guide for the First-Time Researcher, London: Sage

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Contact Hours: 28

Private Study Hours: 422

Total Study Hours: 450

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Presentation – 10%

Plan (2,000 words) – 20%

Dissertation (10,000 words) - 70%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Supervisions | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Private study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pitch | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Dissertation plan and work schedule | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Dissertation | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

This module recognises that journalism, in both amateur and professional forms, is practiced worldwide. It views the media and creative industries as facilitating possibilities for global forms of communication. Consequently, we encourage students to consider dissertation topics that focus on journalism in specific countries around the world and/or which demonstrate a critical awareness of global forms of journalism and media communication.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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Revised FSO Feb 2018