

**MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM**

Module Title: Journalism in Society	Level: 4	Credit Value: 30
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Module code: HUM425	Cost Centre: GAJM	JACS3 code: P500
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 1, 2 & 3	With effect from: September 2014
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<b>Office use only:</b> To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: July 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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New/ Existing: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): HUM 421 Public Affairs and Democracy in Action
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Janet Jones
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Module duration (total hours): 300 Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 120 Independent study hours: 100 Placement hours: 80	Status: core/option/elective Core (identify programme where appropriate):
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Programme(s) in which to be offered: Certificate of HE in Journalism	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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### **Module Aims:**

This module will enable students to:

- develop knowledge of the basic features, structure and operation of local and central government and associated public bodies
- research and produce stories from local and central government settings
- interpret and tell stories from publicly available data
- use journalistic techniques to hold local and central government to account.
- recognise a journalists' ethical role in society by understanding how their actions and work as individuals can reflect on their own integrity, on their employer's standing and on the reputation of journalists generally
- recognise the ethical impact of publishing news reports/features and packages on people's lives
- demonstrate how to carry out challenging journalism in a legal, ethical and responsible manner while serving the public interest

This module will prepare students to sit the NCTJ Essential Public Affairs exam and includes the syllabus for the NCTJ Practical Journalism Ethics module.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this module students will be able to ...

1. Explain how power is exercised by both central and local government including decision making processes and the powers of ministers, MPs, civil servants, officials and councillors. (KS1, KS3)
2. Describe which public authorities are responsible for the provision of services and understand the relationship between the different layers of government. (KS1)
3. Produce news reports/features/packages based on local and central government issues (KS1, KS3, KS4, KS5)
4. Use media specific research skills to investigate local and central government issues.
5. Operate in a professional, legal and ethical manner recognising the need for accuracy, objectivity and balance/fairness in news coverage (KS3, KS6)
6. Recognise the need to exercise financial propriety and avoid compromising their professional integrity through personal interests (KS1, KS6)
7. Understand ethical decision making in assessing the impact of their journalism on individuals and society generally (K1, K3, K6)

Key skills for employability

1. Written, oral and media communication skills
2. Leadership, team working and networking skills
3. Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
4. Information technology skills and digital literacy
5. Information management skills
6. Research skills
7. Intercultural and sustainability skills
8. Career management skills
9. Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
10. Numeracy

**Assessment:**

**Assessment 1** - A portfolio of news reports from council/government sources or meetings plus an original published feature on a PA topic. The portfolio is to include a reflective analysis of the knowledge and skills needed to produce those reports.

**Assessment 2** - In-class test on ethical issues within journalism. This will be an unseen one-hour long test under exam conditions. Students will have a choice of six questions from which they will have to answer five.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-4	Portfolio	75%		Equivalent to 2,250 words
2	5-7	In-class test	25%	1 hour	

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

- Formal lectures covering key knowledge as outlined in the learning outcomes.
- Talks by senior journalists on journalism ethics
- Guest lectures from political editors and local government correspondents
- Visits from MPs and senior councillors
- Supervised work placements where students will attend and cover local and central government-led stories
- Regular reviews in the work place with a university tutor and workplace supervisor
- Tutorials to guide students through their progress in compiling their portfolios

**Syllabus outline:****Society**

- Local government structures, decision making, accountability and finance
- Central government, the constitution, devolution, monarchy, the executive, Houses of Parliament,
- HM Treasury and basic economics
- The European Union
- Education
- The National Health Service
- Children and adult services
- Planning, development control and housing
- Welfare
- Police and public protection

**Ethics**

- Standards in journalism
- Integrity and propriety

- Responsibilities to consider the impact of journalism on individuals

### **Bibliography:**

#### Essential reading:

Morrison, J. (2013) *Essential Public Affairs for Journalists*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Harcup, T. (2011) *Journalism: Principles and Practice*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. London: Sage

#### Indicative reading:

Sanders K (2003) *Ethics and Journalism*. London: Sage

Harcup T (2007) *The Ethical Journalist*. London: Sage

Randall D (2011) *The Universal Journalist*. London: Pluto Press

#### Websites:

UK Government education service

[www.parliament.uk/education](http://www.parliament.uk/education)

Press Gazette

[www.pressgazette.co.uk](http://www.pressgazette.co.uk)

Journalism.co.uk

[www.journalism.co.uk](http://www.journalism.co.uk)

Department for Communities and Local Government

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government)

WhatDoTheyKnow

[www.whatdotheyknow.com](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com)