

The Department Of Media & Communications

Media Production Specialisation Television Journalism MC52007A

Aims

The course is designed to:

- Provide a practical and critical introduction to television journalism.
- Provide experience in the production of a television news package.
- Provide experience in the production of a TV current affairs item.
- Provide experience in a range of relevant production skills.
- Create a basis for students to move in to documentary production.

Learning Outcomes

The outcomes are that each student should, by the end of the course:

1. Be able to work with others to plan, shoot and edit news and current affairs packages.
2. Understand the main similarities and differences between news and current affairs productions
3. Understand the methods and disciplines of news and current affairs location and studio production.
4. Gain the basic skills needed to operate a range of advanced video equipment.
5. Gain all the production and technical skills required to move into documentary production in the third year, from location and people find to editorial ethics.

Learning Methods and Course Content

The course contains three elements, which are led by the course tutor with close support from the technical adviser. The three are technical instruction, news production and current affairs production. Teaching methods comprise formal teaching sessions, screenings and practical workshops and are aimed to provide students not only with a knowledge and understanding of news and current affairs production, but also the more advanced technical skills they will require for the third year documentary production course. The course will be initially taught in a series of workshops. However, once production begins students will work in their own groups. If all the other elements have been pulled into place in time, it will culminate with the students, working as one production group, producing a television magazine programme, which will include the news and current affairs items packaged around a series of live interviews.

Assessment

Assessment is based on a combination of group work and written work produced at the end of the course. Assessment of learning outcomes is by:

- Examination of the project/portfolio *50% of overall mark*
- Examination of the written log *50% of overall mark*

Assessment Criteria

Project. Five equally weighted criteria worth 50% of the overall mark and shared by the group:

- Strength of ideas
- Research/Planning skills
- Appropriate/distinctive structure
- Effective use – aural & visual elements
- Technical competence

Log . Five equally weighted criteria worth 50% of the overall mark:

- Communication/Teamwork
- Problem solving skills
- Practical Production skills
- Conceptual skills
- Enterprise/resourcefulness,
- Self reliance/independence

You will find full details of the requirements and the assessment criteria in the Programme Handbook.

Course Outline

During the course students will work on a news and current affairs production. The course will culminate in the productions being packaged together through the studio in the format of a magazine programme, which will also include live studio interviews.

Week 1

INTRODUCTION & CAMERA WORKSHOP

Course outline, assessment procedures, punctuality and other dos and don'ts. Health and Safety. Introduction to TV Journalism - its various forms and traditions. How a news story is translated into a television form. Camera workshop. Camera work exercise around college. Briefing for news gathering exercise.

Objective: To give an overall view of the course. To enable students to think critically about television journalism and how the course will help both their practical skills and theoretical understanding. To learn the use of the camcorder kit.

Week 2

THE NEWS PRODUCTION PROCESS

Understanding what is news, where does it come from and how it is packaged. How to find and research a news story. Class divides into production groups to undertake news gathering exercise.

Objective: To understand the principles and practices of news gathering and production for television, undertake basic research and production of a news story.

Week 3

EDITING WORKSHOP

The principles of non-linear editing. The principles and practices of editing for news. Groups undertake the editing of their news material.

Objective: To gain an understanding of both the principles and practice of non-linear editing and to understand the process of editing for news programming.

Week 4

SCRIPT WRITING AND VOICE PRODUCTION

The principles and practice of writing to picture. The principles of voice production. The class will divide into production groups to write and record commentary onto the news packages edited the previous week.

Objective: To understand the principles of writing to picture and how to achieve the best in voice production.

Week 5

SOUND and LIGHTING WORKSHOP

The principles and practices of sound recording and lighting. This session will involve a studio and location workshop devoted to understanding how to achieve best quality sound. In the afternoon a similar workshop will be run outlining the techniques of using natural and artificial lighting.

Objective: To understand and be able to replicate best practice in sound recording and lighting.

Week 6

MONITORING WEEK

Week 7

INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES AND RESEARCH

Planning an interview schedule. Interview techniques in production and editing. Interview exercises on location and in studio. Finding and initial research of current affairs item. Group decisions as to which current affairs items to pursue.

Objective: To understand and be able to replicate interview techniques for both formal and informal interviews. To understand research techniques.

Week 8

LOCATION RESEARCH AND 'RECCEING'

Researching and reconnoitring a current affairs item. This session will be entirely practical with the class divided into production groups, which will research and prepare their own items.

Objective: To gain hands-on experience of researching and preparing a current affairs item.

Week 9

PRODUCTION

Shooting of the current affairs item.

Objective: To gain hands-on experience of the production phase of a current affairs item.

Week 10

EDITING & VOICING

Editing and writing and recording the commentary for the current affairs item plus planning for the studio day.

Objective: To gain hands-on experience of editing and voicing a current affairs item.

Week 11

STUDIO DAY & REVIEW

Revision of studio practice, preparation, rehearsal and recording of studio magazine programme to include studio interviews and inserts of news and current affairs items recorded earlier.

Viewing and discussion of the programme. Questions and discussion.

Objective: To gain hands-on experience of news and current affairs multi-camera shooting in a studio environment. To understand and experience the pressures of time and creativity involved in multi-camera practice. To record a magazine programme involving both live and recorded items.