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## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### Module Title

Investigative Journalism

Reference	BS4326	Version	2
Created	March 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 10
Approved	June 2018	SCQF Points	30
Amended	June 2017	ECTS Points	15

### Aims of Module

To enable students to critically interrogate the concept of investigative journalism and the practical, ethical and legal constraints within which practitioners operate; develop a detailed understanding of its evolution over time; appreciate the relative merits, limitations and criticisms of recent developments in the field; and work independently to write an essay focusing on an ethical or other issue/debate relating to investigative journalism and independently or collaboratively to produce a professional investigative journalism project.

### Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the nature and scope of investigative reporting, and the ethical, practical and professional issues and debates underpinning it.
- 2 Utilise a range of sources and engaged with different theoretical and practical approaches to explore the concept of investigative reporting in all its forms.
- 3 Show an ability to work independently and to manage their time effectively while working on their seminar presentations, extended essays and practical investigations.
- 4 Display an ability to engage in in-depth and reflective academic and journalistic research and interrogate relevant primary sources in appropriate ways through their seminar contributions and summative assessments.

### Indicative Module Content

This module focuses on exploring the nature and purpose of investigative journalism and how it is carried out. It will seek to discriminate between the various types of investigative reporting - from forensic document-trawling to undercover exposes to risky reportage to 'crusading' or 'campaigning journalism'. Formal teaching will be minimised in semester two, with students expected to lead seminars and use workshops to develop their own assessed project ideas, with input from their peers and under their tutor's supervision. While later sessions will be given over to independent study, earlier ones will be directed by the tutor to explore the meaning of the term investigative journalism; its scope and limitations; and the legal, ethical, risk management and other issues and dilemmas it poses for practitioners.

### Module Delivery

This module is delivered over two semesters and involves a mixture of lectures, discursive seminars, practical workshops and one-to-one/group supervisions. Students are expected to prepare for seminars, and contribute to, and occasionally lead, discussion of topics, based on a mix of set reading and wider research into the issues covered. Where possible, specialist practitioners in the field will be invited to lead seminars and/or offer practical advice and training.

In Semester 2, the module will become more self-directed, with lectures replaced by 'problem-solving' workshops and practical lab sessions designed to help students progress their research essays and investigations.

### Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	66	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	234	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	300	N/A
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

### ASSESSMENT PLAN

*If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.*

#### Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	Group Practical Assessment				

#### Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	70%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3, 4
Description:	Individual Written Assessment				

### MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

#### Explanatory Text

The Module is assessed by two components: C1 - Coursework - 30% weighting. C2 - Coursework - 70% weighting. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
<b>A</b>	At least 70% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
<b>B</b>	At least 60% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
<b>C</b>	At least 50% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
<b>D</b>	At least 40% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
<b>E</b>	At least 35% on weighted aggregate
<b>F</b>	Less than 35% on weighted aggregate
<b>NS</b>	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

**Module Requirements**

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

**INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1 BAUSUM, A., 2007. *Muckrakers: how Ida Tarbell, Upton Sinclair, and Lincoln Steffens helped*. Washington: National Geographic Society.
- 2 BURSTINER, M., 2017. *Investigative reporting: from premise to publication*. Oxford: Routledge. Kindle edition.
- 3 CAPOTE, T., 2002. *In cold blood*. New York: Random House
- 4 DE BURGH, H., 2008. 2nd edition. *Investigative journalism: context and practice*. London: Routledge. Kindle e-book.
- 5 GAINES, W.C., 2007. *Investigative journalism: proven strategies for reporting the story*. Washington: CQ Press.
- 6 PALAST, G., 2016. *The best democracy money can buy*. New York: Seven Stories Press.
- 7 PILGER, J., 2011. *Tell me no lies: investigative journalism and its triumphs*. New York: Vintage. Kindle edition.
- 8 WOODWARD, B. and BERNSTEIN, C., 2012. *All the president's men*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Kindle edition.