ROBERT GORDON UNIVERSITY ABERDEEN

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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Digital Journalism In Practice

Reference	BSM131	Version	4
Created	April 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	June 2018	SCQF Points	15
Amended	June 2017	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To enable the student to develop a critical and practical understanding of the ways in which journalism is adapting to the digital environment and a broad skills base in multimedia storytelling and content creation. This module combines location-based newsgathering with theoretical reflection and the teaching of practical skills in online and digital journalism.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

1 Acquire and develop advanced journalistic skills in newsgathering for the digital environment.

2 Demonstrate an ability to apply a range of key skills in the production and publication of digital journalism.

3 Critically evaluate their practical work in the context of current issues and debates around the impact of digital technology on journalists and their audiences.

4 Demonstrate understanding of the importance of market targeting of digital publishing.

Indicative Module Content

Newsgathering from specific parts of Aberdeen and the surrounding area and/or for a defined niche audience at local or national level; delivering journalistic content in a range of multimedia forms for online and digital platforms; reflecting critically on digital journalism practice and the challenges facing the industry; applying an understanding of the issues and debates surrounding the digitisation of journalism to day-to-day practice.

Module Delivery

This module includes lectures, seminars and practical workshops/laboratory sessions. There is a strong emphasis on newsgathering with dedicated 'news-day sessions' incorporated into teaching later in the semester. Students will also be introduced to key digital skills, including Wordpress website design, blogging and video for online, and given additional training in interview techniques and the basics of data journalism.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	69	N/A
Non-Contact Hours	81	N/A
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	N/A
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

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

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	40%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3
Description:	Individual Portfolio Assessment				

Component 2

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	60%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
Description:	Individual Portfolio Assessment				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR

Explanatory Text

The Module is assessed by two components: C1 - Coursework - 40% weighting. C2 - Coursework - 60% weighting. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

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

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	Broadcast Journalism BSM130.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

1 BRADSHAW P., 2017. *The online journalism handbook: skills to survive and thrive in the digital age.* Second edition. London: Routledge.

2 GARRAND, T., 2006. *Writing for multimedia and the web.* 3rd ed. Burlington: Elsevier.

3 GRAY, J., et al., (eds), 2018. *The Data Journalism Handbook.* ; Available at: http://datajournalismhandbook.org/1.0/en/.

4 HERBERT, J., 2004. *Journalism in the digital age: theory and practice for broadcast, print and on-line media.* Oxford: Focal Press.

5 KAWAMOTO, K., 2013. *Digital journalism: emerging media and the changing horizons of journalism.* Lanham: Rowan and Littlefield. Kindle e-book.

6 KOLODZY, J., 2013. *Convergence journalism: writing and reporting across the news media.* Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield. Kindle e-book.

7 SHANAHAN, M., 2017. *Journalism, online comments and the future of public discourse.* Oxford: Routledge. Kindle edition.

8 WARD, M., 2013. *Journalism online.* Oxford: Focal Press. Kindle e-book.