**JCO 1101** INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM

**COURSE NAME: INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM COURSE CODE: JCO 1101**

**CREDIT UNITS: 4**

**CONTACT HOURS: 45**

**TYPE OF COURSE: CORE**

**Course Description:**

The course is an introduction to the field of journalism. Students learn about: contentions over the definition of a journalist; contemporary debates about the state of journalism nationally and globally; the various journalistic philosophies and their historical origins and philosophical underpinnings, controversies, criticisms, applicability to Africa, and examples of practice; principles that govern the practice of journalism; debates about the professionalization of journalism; the nature of the journalism profession/industry in Uganda and East Africa; and the role of journalism in the democratic process and public life. The course surveys the history of the origins of the notions of freedom of the media and freedom of expression.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To develop the learners’ understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of the practice of journalism.

2. To expose the learner to key journalism principles and their critiques.

3. To enable the learner to evaluate the applicability of journalism principles developed elsewhere to professional practice in the African context.

4. To enable students to appreciate the role of journalism in the process of democratization.

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction to the journalism profession.

2. Why do you want to study journalism?

3. The role of the media in a democracy with emphasis on the importance of trained, committed journalists to serve as the bridge between government and the people.

4. The ideal mission of journalism: what are the major tenets of the profession?

5. Roles and functions of journalists.

6. Debates about the professionalization and professional status of journalism.

7. Approaches to the study of journalism.

8. Philosophies of journalism.

9. Application of media theory, models and research to journalism.

10. International and comparative media systems.

11. Contemporary challenges to the journalism profession.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, the learner should:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the various journalistic philosophies proposed over time and across countries as well as their origins.

2. Be familiar with the role of journalism in public life.

3. Understand the challenges that face journalism as a profession.

**Methods of Teaching/Delivery:**

• Interactive lectures

• Individual research

• Group presentations

• Discussions and debates

**Methods of Assessment:**

• Coursework 40%

• Final examination 60%

**Readings/Reference Materials/Learning Resources:**

• Fourie, P.J. (2005). “Journalism Studies: The Need to Think about

Journalists’ Thinking,” Ecquid Novi, 26, 2: 356-3590.

• Fourie P.J. 2001. (ed). Media Studies: Institutions, theories and issues. (Vol. 1). Landsowne: JUTA.

• Straubhaar, J.D. and La Rose, R. (eds). 2008. Media now:

communications media in the information age. Belmont: Wadsworth.