**JCO 4103 SPECIALISED JOURNALISM WORKSHOP COURSE**

**JOURNALISM WORKSHOP COURSE CODE: JCO 4103**

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**CREDIT UNITS: 4**

**CONTACT HOURS: 60**

**TYPE OF COURSE: CORE**

**Course Description:**

This is a fully practical course that engages students in advanced ways of reporting and writing about specialized topics or areas. It compels students to immerse themselves in a topic or field of their interest with the aim of producing a meaningful story based on reasonably deep understanding of the relevant issues and content. The goal is to enable students learn to deal with depth and complexity and to break complex issues down into information that general audiences can use. Students have an opportunity to develop advanced reporting, writing, and presentation skills broadly applicable to different media platforms. For practical and pedagogical reasons, students may be required to work on a common or predetermined list of topics. The main output of the course is a major reporting assignment presented as a series or single piece. Students should be encouraged to coordinate their area of specialized journalism with their supporting subject(s).

**Course Objectives:**

1. To develop skills in reporting on a special topic through attending relevant events, meeting with experts, and library research.

2. To encourage students to develop a range of different approaches in presenting information and to reflect critically on them.

3. To explore critically the various genres of journalistic coverage of the chosen topic of specialization

4. To acquaint students with the key concepts and debates concerning the topic of specialization.

**5.** To examine processes by which critical judgments are translated into journalism.

**Course Outline:**

1. Critical analysis of the key characteristics of existing coverage and discussion of criteria for excellence in coverage.

2. Critical reflection on the social, economic and political issues related to the topic.

3. Critical reflection on the methods by which the media report, analyze and/or promote public awareness and understanding of the topic.

4. Specialized reporting that blends the substantive knowledge of an academic discipline in which the student majors into the craft of reporting. Topics of specialization should relate to journalism “beats” and, where possible, to the student’s supporting subject.

5. A major work of journalism in the student’s specialized subject, with an

Accompanying report reflecting on the journalistic process and ethical and other implications of the project.

6. Explanatory reporting for the general public, culminating in an extended work of journalism in any medium.

7. Developing a reporter’s judgment of the significance and meaning of things as a reflection of his or her depth of experience in a domain of human action.

**8.** Developing a reporter’s judgment of the significance and meaning of things as a reflection of his or her understanding of the methods of interpretation that have been incubated within a specific discipline or interdisciplinary field.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Research and write on a major subject of news (or “beat”).

2. Produce a range of stories appropriate to particular outlets.

3. Undertake systematic research on their topic of specialization.

4. Critically discuss some common styles of journalism and programming on the topic.

5. Describe the main actors involved in the topic of specialization at national and international levels.

6. Negotiate access to sources, experts, information, and relevant bodies.

**Methods of Teaching/Delivery:**

• Interactive lectures

• Seminars

• Writing workshops

• Production workshops

• Library research

• Review of journalistic work in print, online, radio, TV coverage

• Guest speakers

**Methods of Assessment:**

• Progressive assessment 100%

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

• Bickler, C et al (2004). Reporting for Change: A Handbook for Local Journalists in Crisis Areas. Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Available at [http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc\_state=henh&s=o&o=special\_index1](http://www.iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state=henh&amp;s=o&amp;o=special_index1)

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• Keeble, R. (2006). Newspapers Handbook. London: Routledge.

• Kuhn, R. & Neveu, E. (eds). (2002). Political Journalism: New

Challenges, New Practices. Routledge.

• Lavrakas, P. & Traugott, M (eds) (2000). Election Polls, News Media and Democracy. Seven Bridges Press.

• Meyer, P. (2002). Precision Journalism. New York: Oxford.

• Wickham, K. (2002). Math Tools for Journalists. Oak Park, IL: Marion

Street Press.