Good practices in Journalism

Academic Year: (2020 / 2021) **Review date: 10-07-2020**

Department assigned to the subject: Communication and Media Studies Department

Coordinating teacher: MACIA BARBER, CARLOS

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : Semester :

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

- Media Theory
- Information Skills
- Writing and Communication Skills
- Spanish Language and the Media
- News Reporting
- Theory and Analysis of the Documentary Film
- Journalism and Social Change in Spain
- Information Law
- Radio Journalism
- Television Journalism
- Online Journalism

OBJECTIVES

That students know how to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the skills that are usually demonstrated through the elaboration and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.

That students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their area of study) to make judgments that include a reflection on relevant social, scientific or ethical issues.

That students have developed those learning skills necessary to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy.

Know the basics of journalistic information, the configuration of the media system, as well as the communication / participatory model that makes up society in access to journalistic information.

Achieve a level of training in the field of social sciences and humanities, as well as in the scientific-technical field sufficient to transmit information related to these fields to the public and contextualize said information.

To know the main theories of media communication from a diachronic perspective and the coexistence of different conceptual and methodological repertoires characteristic of the disciplinary crossroads in which the theory of communication is forged. Ability to update theoretical concepts in the daily media experience of the student.

Be able to treat journalistic information from the respect to pluralism, democratic principles, human rights, effective equality between men and women, promoting from a model professional practice. Knowledge of the legal and legal framework of the right to freedom of expression, as well as the entire list of good professional practices.

Be able to deal, in the framework of the different journalistic genres, with those topics of general interest and public relevance whose central axis are forms of violence and conflict of a structural nature (gender violence, conflicts of a cultural and/or religious nature).

The learning outcomes are the following:

Have acquired knowledge, both theoretical and practical advanced and demonstrated an understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects and work methodology of journalistic science with a depth that reaches the forefront of knowledge.

Power, through arguments or procedures developed and supported by them, apply their knowledge, understanding of these and their problem solving abilities in complex journalistic areas or specialized professionals that require the use of creative and innovative ideas.

Have the ability to collect and interpret data and information on which to base their conclusions including, when necessary and relevant, reflection on issues of a social, scientific or ethical nature in the field of journalism.

Be able to cope with complex situations or require the development of new solutions in the academic, professional or professional field within the journalistic field.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. The social responsibility of journalist. Freedom of expression and right to information. The due diligence. The moral duty of the reporter and the journalistic truth. Conscious and unconscious manipulation

2. Journalistic Self-Regulation. Organisms, institutions and self-regulation initiatives

Audiovisual Council of Catalonia (CAC), Audiovisual Council of Andalusia (CAA), Council of Information of Catalonia (CIC)
Commission of Arbitration, Complaints and Deontology of Journalism (FAPE)
Deontological codes, style books and sectorial recommendations
News ombudsmen
Professional associations and journalists unions

3. Basic principles: truth, justice, freedom and responsibility. Good journalistic practices in:

Gender (gender perspective, sexist violence)
Presumption of innocence (parallel judgments)
Minors and disappeared (people's rights to honour, privacy and their own image)
Racism, xenophobia, discrimination, hate (origin, religious beliefs, ideology)
Terrorism / armed conflicts (censorship, propaganda, refugees)
Social media / Fake news (rumour, hoax, misinformation)
Journalism hi-tech (big data, drones, transmedia, right to be forgotten).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Combination of theoretical teachings and practical cases. The first will be oriented in a double sense: master classes and conceptual work on the part of the student, based on the guidelines taught in them and the conceptual repertoires transmitted.

The practical cases will consist of the analysis of journalistic messages, taking into account both the morphology of the journalistic story and the relevant documentation processes. The methodology includes both the study of the purpose of the message (more or less express or hidden, intentional or not), and the resources used by the reporter (sources, titles, structure, style, graphic and audiovisual resources). It allows you to become familiar with the real exercise of the profession, with the discussion of its benefits or deficiencies. The student previously works individually on the text, which is analyzed, studied and discussed collectively in class later.

Mandatory readings The student must reflect on those contents of reading directly related to the ethical practice of journalism. The personal critical reflection on the foreign example makes possible the learning of the professional techniques at the same time of the due deontological expositions.

Individual tutorials They allow a more precise orientation of the aptitudes and attitudes of the student in relation to the theoretical and practical contents of the subject, the resolution of doubts and the direction of the scientific works.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

1. Compulsory final exam, with questions of a theoretical nature (10%) and practice (20%).

2. Preparation of an individual research. Case study on the journalistic coverage of a topic or issue with legal, ethical and deontological implications in one of the following areas: gender, presumption of innocence, minors, missing persons, racism, xenophobia, terrorism, armed conflicts, social media or fake news (50%).

3. Practices. Deontological analysis of journalistic messages (news, in-depth report, chronicle, interview, opinion genres) (20%).

It is necessary to deliver at least 80% of the practices commissioned during the semester. Work will not be accepted after the delivery date, except for justified force majeure.

% end-of-term-examination:	30
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	70

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BERTRAND, C.-J. An arsenal for democracy: media accountability systems, Cresskill (N.J.): Hampton Press, 2003
- BUGEJA, Michael Living Media Ethics: Across Platforms, New York/London: Routledge, 2019
- CARLSON, M. & LEWIS, S.C. Boundaries of Journalism: Professionalism, Practices and Participation, London: Routledge, 2015
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- FENGLER, S. Journalists and Media Accountability: An International Study of News People in the Digital Age, New York: Peter Lang, 2014
- KEEBLE, R. Ethics for journalists, New York: Routledge, 2009
- LUCE, Ann (ed.) Ethical Reporting of Sensitives Topics, London/New York: Routledge, 2019
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- MACIÁ-BARBER, C. Ethics in Reporting and Journalism Transmedia. En Rodríguez Terceño, José (Coord.): Current Audiovisual Productions., Palm Beach, Florida: Journal of Alternatives Perspectives in the Social Sciences Press, 2014, pp. 169-184
- MACIÁ-BARBER, C. New challenges for an enduring code of journalistic ethics: the news media business model in the face of ethical standards and citizen participation, Comunicação & Sociedade, vol. 25, 2014, pp. 97-109
- McBRIDE, K. & ROSENSTIEL, T. (eds.) The New Ethics of Journalism: Principles for the 21st Century, London: Sage, 2014
- PETLEY, J. (ed.) Media and Public Shaming, London/New York: I.B. Tauris/RISJ University of Oxford, 2013
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- WILKINS, L & CHRISTIANS, C. (eds.) The handbook of mass media ethics, New York: Routledge. 2nd Ed., 2020
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- ZION, L. & CRAIG, D. Ethics for Digital Journalists. Emerging Best Practices, London: Routledge, 2015

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- BORDEN, S.L. Journalism as practice: MacIntyre, virtue ethics and the press, Burlington: Ashgate, 2007
- CHRISTIANS, C. G. Good news: social ethics and the press, New York: Oxford University Press, 1993
- DAY, L. A. Ethics in media communications: cases and controversies, Belmont (CA): Thomson, 2006
- ESS, C. Digital media ethics, Cambridge: Polity, 2009
- FRIEND, C. Online Journalism Ethics: Traditions ans Transitions, Armonk (N.Y.): Sharpe, 2007
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