

Module Title	Investigative Journalism
Programme(s)/Course	BA (Hons) Journalism
Level	5
Semester	2
Ref No:	
Credit Value	20
Student Study hours	Contact hours: 48 Student managed learning hours: 152
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	N/A
Module Coordinator [Name + e mail address]	Filotrani, Laura Jane filotral@lsbu.ac.uk
Parent Department	Creative Technologies
Parent Course	
JACS Code	
Description [100 words max]	This module will focus on the techniques involved in writing for newspapers in general and in reporting and investigating on a controversial topic (crime, corruption, a scandal, etc.). This unit will allow students to work on news or an investigative project while exposing a 'real life' alleged failure of justice. The unit will address the techniques required for both the research/investigation (surveillance techniques, going undercover, archive research, use of anonymous sources, analysis of documents, scientific analysis, social and legal issues, and the like) and the writing of a final news piece. The unit will also address the consequences of investigative journalism, for the individual and for the society as a whole.
Aims	The aims of this unit are to: generate awareness of the history and progress of investigative journalism; provide students with innovative and in-depth research and investigation techniques; build students' research skills including computer-assisted reporting, the effective use of public records and databases, and the Freedom of Information Act; examine undercover and covert investigative techniques; provide knowledge of case studies of high-profile investigations and the skills to investigate issues of public concern, miscarriages of justice, and companies, organisations and individuals within an ethical framework; offer students the opportunity to complete a real-life investigation aimed for publication.
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students will demonstrate: Knowledge and Understanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the basic requirements for identifying stories suitable for investigation • Critically evaluate the specific techniques involved in investigative journalism including the application of relevant media law Intellectual Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue and imaginatively report on a story • Ability to spot potential avenues for in-depth inquiry Practical Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate elementary desk and field skills needed to kick-start inquiries • Demonstrate an ability to produce a journalistic piece in a specific subject of investigative journalism, to identify suitable specific subjects, and to develop an understanding of how to write, source and research to a standard acceptable to a professionally produced title Transferable Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrate oral communication skills through seminar discussions and group work • Offer organisational and methodological skills of practical research

Employability	The Investigative Journalism unit focuses on a range of skills which emphasise approaches to acquiring material for feature and news articles of a more contentious bent. In discussing significant examples of investigative journalism the unit also extends students' understanding of the historical precedents. Such knowledge particularly appeals to owners and editors, who appreciate the fact that graduates are able to demonstrate a broad understanding of their chosen profession.
Teaching & Learning Pattern	The module will be delivered over 12 weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours seminars for 10 weeks to provide overall frameworks and concepts. • 2 hour workshop for 10 weeks based on student group work and presentation. • 2 weeks of one-to-one tutorials, providing feedback on the writing of the article and the Critical Essay
Indicative content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative Journalism: History and Theory • Investigative Research • Manufacture of Consent • Investigative Journalism and Law
Assessment method (Please give details – of components, weightings, sequence of components, final component)	<p><i>Summative</i></p> <p>INVESTIGATIVE FEATURE: One journalistic piece (1,500 words) 80%</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT: Students will be required to submit a full notebook with notes and sources clearly recorded. Attendance and punctuality will also be assessed as part of the professional conduct element.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT: 20%
Indicative Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green, D (2012) <i>The Times and NightJack: an anatomy of a failure</i>. New Statesman • Houston, B (2010) 'The Future of Investigative Journalism', <i>Daedalus</i>. Vol. 139, pp. 45-56. • Pilger, J (2011) <i>Tell me no Lies: Investigative journalism and its triumphs</i>. Vintage Digital. • Ronson, J (2014) <i>Them: Adventures with Extremists</i>. Picador. • Spark, D (2013) <i>Investigative Reporting: a Study in Technique</i>, Oxford: Focal Press • Schiffrin, A (2014) <i>Global Muckraking: 100 years of investigative journalism around the world</i>. New York: The New Press. • Houston, B (2009) <i>Investigative Reporter's Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases, and Techniques</i>, Bedford Books • Mair, J (2011) <i>Investigative Journalism; Dead or Alive?</i> Abramis • Bulgutch, M (2016) <i>That's Why I'm a Journalist: Top Canadian Reporters Tell Their Most Unforgettable Stories</i>, Douglas & McIntyr • Harris, R (2016) <i>Pulitzer's Gold: A Century of Public Service Journalism</i>, Columbia University Press
Other Learning Resources	Moodle, newsroom wires, newspapers, habitual radio, television and online news consumption