

STAGE 3

Module	Investigative Journalism 2
Course code	BAJH-IJ2
Credits	10
Allocation of marks	100% Continuous Assessment

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Conceptualise, initiate, plan and carry out to deadline a number of high quality publishable investigate journalism news reports.
2. Exercise appropriate judgement to carry out advanced self-directed research and to present, defend and critically self-evaluate same.
3. Demonstrate an advanced critical understanding of the changing context for investigative journalism in the Western world within the context of the overlapping processes of the forces of contemporary globalisation.

Module Objectives

Building on the skills acquired in the News Production & Investigative Journalism module, learners engage here with advanced investigative techniques and practice so as to facilitate them in attaining the advanced investigative journalistic skills of research conception, relevance, planning and implementation. Objectives include to deliver on time, self-directed, peer-reviewed, lecture-facilitated, professional quality investigative-based journalism; and to display an advanced understanding, from both an historical and contemporary perspective, the important role investigative journalism plays in the nurturing and maintenance of democratic societies. Additionally, to demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the social demand and economic viability of investigative journalism as a genre. The investigative techniques practiced in this module are transferable skills applicable to wide variety of employment possibilities.

Module Curriculum

Topic: Investigative Writing Skills:

Grammar and punctuation revision. Thinking through the conventional wisdom. Story structure with target markets in mind. Maintaining focus. Editing and re-editing. Organizing the information, writing and rewriting. Reevaluation. Publication and follow-up stories

Topic: Investigative Journalism Techniques:

Finding documents, tools for finding people, locating and interviewing sources, getting sources to talk, secondary sources, using Lexis Nexis.

Topic: Computer-Assisted Reporting

Using the basic tools; crunching numbers; examples and case studies of CAR in use.

Topic: 160 Years of Investigators

Case studies on some of the well-known and less well-known heroes of American, Irish and British investigative journalism and the differences their work made.

Topic: The Consensus of Crisis

Examining the work of academics and practitioners who have identified a reduction in the resources committed to investigative journalism by large media organisations. Analysing and critiquing the reasons for this in a political economy perspective.

Topic: Online Opportunities: Changed Distribution and Consumption

Examining new and old not-for-profit organisations dedicated to promoting and producing investigative journalism as an essential public good. Looking at the investigative work of environmental and human rights civil society groups. Making use of investigative conferences, networks, online resources, competitions and funding opportunities.