

YEAR 3

ADVANCED INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Overview and Aims

In this module students advance their practical skills and theoretical underpinning from Investigative Reporting in Stage II, to conceive of, plan and carry out high quality publishable investigative journalism news reports.

This module aims to enable students to:

- Possess the advanced investigative journalistic skills of research conception, relevance, planning and implementation.
- Deliver on time self-directed, peer-reviewed, lecture-facilitated, professional quality investigative-based journalism.
- 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.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the social demand and economic viability of investigative journalism as a genre.

Upon successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Develop an advanced critical understanding of the role of investigative journalism in democratic societies.
- Develop 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 globalization.
- Conceptualize, initiate, plan and carry out to deadline a number of high quality publishable investigative journalism news reports.
- Exercise appropriate judgment to carry out advanced self-directed research and to present, defend and critically self-evaluate same.

Indicative Module Content

- **Investigative News Report Writing Skills**
Acquiring the practical skills: Moving from blank screen and no idea ... to an excellent finished investigative news report. Brainstorm, cluster, outline, inverted pyramid, paragraph planning, self-editing and review. Writing tips and structure planning.
- **The Role and Importance of Investigative Journalism in Democratic Societies**
Examining a number of case studies of published, successful investigations and pulled unpublished work.
- **The Impact of Increased 'Commercialisation' on the Genre.**
Examining the available academic papers as to supply and demand of investigative journalism in different markets and between different business models.
- **Historical and Contemporary Contextualisation in a Critical Political Economy Framework**
This involves ongoing analysis of a host of academic writing on and around the area of investigative journalism.