

**REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF JOURNALISM
(MJ)**

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Journalism in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference indicating that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

MJ 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) who are seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall have a score of 587 or above (paper-based test) or 240 or above (computer-based test) or 95 or above (Internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or a minimum overall band of 7.0 with no subtest lower than 6.0 in International English Language Testing System (IELTS); and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.

MJ 2. Candidates who do not hold a Bachelor's degree from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register if they possess proven professional experience in journalism, show evidence of excellence in the practice of journalism and proof of competence in the English language and satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if appropriate. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Qualifying examination

MJ 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic abilities or their abilities to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
- (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register in the curriculum until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.

Award of degree

MJ 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Journalism, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete all written and practical work which may be required; and
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below.

Period of study

MJ 5.

- (a) The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study.
 - (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or three academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.
-

Completion of curriculum

MJ 6. To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) shall complete not less than 60 and not more than 72 credits, including 5 compulsory courses as prescribed in the syllabuses;
 - (c) shall follow the instruction on the syllabuses prescribed and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work and practical work; and
 - (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.
-

Exemption

MJ 7. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

Assessment

MJ 8. Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.

MJ 9. An assessment of the candidates' coursework during their studies, including completion of written assignments and participation in practical work, as the case may be, may be taken into account in determining the candidates' result in each written paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute part or whole of the assessment of one or more courses.

MJ 10. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MJ 11. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt in not more than half of the number of credits, not including the capstone project, taken in an academic year may be permitted to make up for the failed credits in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment in the failed course within a specified period; or
- (b) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (c) for elective courses, taking another course of the same number of credits in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MJ 12. Candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory capstone project may be permitted to submit a revised capstone project within a specified period.

MJ 13. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MJ 14. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MJ 15. Candidates who

- (a) have failed more than half of the number of credits taken in an academic year; or
 - (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners in any course(s) at a second attempt; or in any new course taken in lieu of a failed course under MJ 11; or
 - (c) are not permitted to submit a revised capstone project under MJ 12; or
 - (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory revised capstone project under MJ 12; or
 - (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration
- may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G12.

MJ 16. Candidates who have committed plagiarism in any written paper, examination, or other classroom assignment may be required to discontinue their studies.

Grading systems

MJ 17. Individual courses shall be graded according to the following grading systems:

- (a) Letter grades, their standards and the grade points for assessment as follows:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

or

- (b) 'Pass' or 'Fail'.

Courses which are graded according to (b) above will not be included in the calculation of the GPA.

Classification of awards

MJ 18. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF JOURNALISM

PURPOSE

The degree is a professional programme designed to produce graduates for the local, regional and international media and related industries who would practice in English or Chinese, or both. The curriculum emphasizes the practice of journalism as well as the ethics, laws, history and principles of journalism. It also has a special focus on issues facing Greater China and the Asia Pacific region.

Candidates are trained to report critically and intelligently about the basic issues of the day in all forms of media. Graduates will not only be competent practitioners of journalism, but they will also help raise standards of the field by pioneering in various forms of journalism, including print, broadcasting and new media. Information technology is an integral part of the programme. Students will also be able to apply their training in critical thinking and communication skills to careers in other professions and industries.

CURRICULUM

The programme shall extend over not less than one and not more than two academic years of full-time study, or not less than two and not more than three academic years of part-time study, with a minimum of 360 hours of prescribed work. To receive the award of Master of Journalism, candidates shall complete not less than 60 and not more than 72 credits, including 5 compulsory courses as prescribed in the syllabuses below as partial requirement for the fulfilment of the degree. Waivers may be granted for core courses to students with extensive professional experience, subject to the approval of the Director. Students must replace the number of waived credits with courses of the same credit value.

Candidates may take no more than 12 credits that satisfy two courses offered under approved graduate-level degree curricula in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Social Sciences and other divisions of teaching. A list of such elective courses will be published by the Programme Director from year to year. Students may seek approval from the Director for permission to take courses outside the published list.

Optional Summer Institutes/ Programmes:

Summer programmes/courses may be offered in conjunction with well-established universities in Mainland China or overseas. Candidates could be exempted from up to 6 credits upon successful completion of the programme and credits could be given.

The elective courses listed below may not be offered each year; depending on the exigencies of staffing and student demands, additional courses may be offered and the courses listed below may be offered in a different years of study. Candidates should consult the Programme Director for the courses offered in any one year.

Compulsory courses

Candidates shall complete all courses from the following list:

- JMSC6001. Reporting and writing (6 credits)
- JMSC6093. Video news production (6 credits)
- JMSC6109. Media law and ethics (6 credits)
- JMSC6110. Digital journalism principles and tools (6 credits)

Capstone experience course (Compulsory)

Candidates shall complete the course from the following list:

- JMSC6044. Master's project (6 credits)

Elective courses

Candidate shall complete 5 to 7 courses (30 - 42 credits) from the following list:

General courses

- JMSC6025. Literary journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC6027. Covering China (6 credits)
- JMSC6040. Special topics in journalism I (6 credits)
- JMSC6041. Special topics in journalism II (6 credits)
- JMSC6045. Special topics in journalism III (6 credits)
- JMSC6046. Special topics in journalism IV (6 credits)
- JMSC6055. Research methods for media studies (6 credits)
- JMSC6067. Special topics in covering China I (6 credits)
- JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)
- JMSC6104. Readings in China media and society (6 credits)
- JMSC6115. Journalism internship (6 credits)
- JMSC7002. News editing (6 credits)
- JMSC7007. Interpreting and using business journalism in a global era (6 credits)

Reporting and writing courses

- JMSC6014. Advanced reporting and writing (English) (6 credits)
- JMSC6088. Reporting the environment (6 credits)
- JMSC6090. Reporting health and medicine (6 credits)
- JMSC6103. Reporting global affairs (6 credits)
- JMSC6107. Reporting science (6 credits)
- JMSC6111. Long form and feature writing (English) (6 credits)
- JMSC6114. Opinion writing (6 credits)
- JMSC7001. Entertainment, arts and culture journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC7003. Global economic journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC7008. Global financial journalism (6 credits)

Multimedia courses

- JMSC6082. Photojournalism (6 credits)
- JMSC6100. Documentary video production (12 credits)
- JMSC6101. Radio news (6 credits)
- JMSC6106. The craft and art of documentary film editing (6 credits)
- JMSC6108. Broadcast journalism (6 credits)

Innovation courses

- JMSC6113. Data journalism (6 credits)
- JMSC6116. Social media analytics for journalists (6 credits)
- JMSC6117. Digital media entrepreneurship (6 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Compulsory courses

JMSC6001. Reporting and writing (6 credits)

As a key building block in the MJ programme, this course covers issues applicable to all media — print, broadcast and online. It emphasizes the development of reporting and writing skills as well as journalistic instincts and ethical judgment. Students learn by doing, sometimes under the pressure of deadlines and always under the supervision of editor-teachers who are experienced professionals. Students will be introduced to specialized reporting on such topics as politics, environment, education, social welfare and local, regional and international affairs.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6093. Video news production (6 credits)

Video Journalism is becoming the world's dominant journalism language today. If you don't understand "video," you may find yourself, by modern media standards, journalistically illiterate. Whether you love the idea of learning to use video in your storytelling or hate it, to be a paid, professional communicator today you must be willing to add video to your repertoire of skills. Employers demand it and our audience deserve it. We live in three-dimensions. We should be capable of reporting in them as well. Video provides the option of bringing our sources to life; we see their faces, hear their voices, listen to them laugh or weep, whisper or sing, watch them run or dance, save lives or take them. It's powerful, impactful and – presently, irreplaceable. It can also be difficult to master, requiring both physical and cognitive effort, technical and editorial thinking. We will help you with both, but you must also help yourself by committing to learning and doing. In the short time we have together, we can only expose you to these skills. To master them you must practice.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6109. Media law and ethics (6 credits)

This course examines the legal and ethical issues and trends, major laws and court decisions affecting the media and journalists. It deals with fundamental issues concerning freedom of expression and freedom of the press and the different ways in which these freedoms are impacted in various jurisdictions, including through laws and developments involving defamation, privacy, contempt of court, obscenity, national security/anti-terrorism, copyright and more. While the main focus is on Hong Kong, it also covers major global media law and ethical developments in mainland China, the U.S., U.K., E.U., other common law jurisdictions and elsewhere.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6110. Digital journalism principles and tools (6 credits)

This hands-on course introduces an array of online tools and focuses on emerging forms of storytelling and delivery of journalism, especially for social media and mobile devices, the primary source of information for the majority of news consumers in Asia. By the end of the course, you should be comfortable exploring new tools and techniques in digital journalism.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Compulsory experience course (Compulsory)

JMSC6044. Master's project (6 credits)

Students will apply the journalistic skills, tools and principles that they have acquired during the MJ programme in the month of May, intensive newsroom experience, in which they report the stories of Hong Kong, greater China or Asia. They will produce written, photographic, audio and video content on deadline to be distributed for a daily digital news feed, newscast or podcast.

Students will take various roles based on the combination of skills, classroom performance, professional experience and personal interest.

To successfully *pass* this capstone project, students must devote 30 hours a week for a full month (120 hours total), either reporting, editing, managing or conducting other journalistic activities (including studio technical production) in service to the *JMSC Digital News Feed*.

They will be evaluated on the basis of faculty established criteria for each specific newsroom position or positions, which will also include weekly story/content counts. The project should be presented by May 31 of the last academic year of the curriculum.

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective courses

General courses

JMSC6025. Literary journalism (6 credits)

This course demonstrates how journalism can rise to the level of quality non-fiction literature. Students will read a rich variety of journalistic works produced in English in Asia and abroad, and analyze why they succeed on both literary and journalistic levels. The class will identify the tools and techniques writers employ to construct evocative and enduring true stories, and apply them to their own writing, building characters that come to life on the page, and scenes that make the reader keep turning the page. Students learn to become better readers and writers by closely analyzing the assigned readings and the work of their peers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6027. Covering China (6 credits)

The course introduces students to the methods, as well as the ethical and cultural issues, involved in reporting on contemporary China. The course examines the public information structure in the People's Republic of China, news sources and the use of published documents and statistics, with special focus on the politics and economy of China. It will also give an overview of the state of the media and news topics in China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6040. Special topics in journalism I (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6041. Special topics in journalism II (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6045. Special topics in journalism III (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6046. Special topics in journalism IV (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on journalism and media issues under the supervision of instructors. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The aim of the course is to develop a significant level of understanding and insight into issues that have an impact on the contemporary practice of journalism and the media. The course provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media issues for publication in academic journals, but is also aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on the profession.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6055. Research methods for media studies (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide advanced training in qualitative and quantitative approaches applicable to the study of journalism and the news media. Students focus on a variety of philosophical and conceptual approaches to research as well as tools that help them conduct scholarly research in journalism. The course surveys the range of research methodologies currently used in media studies and the strengths and weaknesses associated with the respective research outcomes. Students taking the course are expected to have a basic understanding of research methodologies.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6067. Special topics in covering China I (6 credits)

This course provides for in-depth studies on specialized areas of news coverage on the People's Republic of China. The aim is to deepen the student's ability to understand and report on China. Students may be required to participate in seminars, conduct reporting and original research, and write one or more papers. The course also provides scope for research outputs by students who wish to pursue media studies for publication in academic journals, but is primarily aimed at working journalists who seek a deeper understanding of issues that have an impact on news coverage of China.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6085. Documentary film appreciation (6 credits)

This course provides a comprehensive survey of the history and development of the documentary film in North America, Europe, and Asia. It traces the evolution of the genre from the late 19th century to the present. It discusses issues involved in the making of non-fiction film, including style, ethics, voice, objectivity/subjectivity, distribution platforms, and censorship. A unique section of the course will explore young independent filmmakers in Asia. Emphasis will be placed on in-depth critical analysis of films.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6104. Readings in China media and society (6 credits)

The course explores the state of media in China, its historical development, its transformation and its role in the political, social and economic life of China. Through lectures and seminars with China experts and veteran journalists, the course offers an overview of the challenges in covering China, and the state of coverage in the international and Chinese-language media.

Requirements: Chinese language proficiency

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6115. Journalism internship (6 credits)

Students who wish to complete internship for credits must consult an academic internship advisor for suitability. Students must commit to between six and eight weeks of full-time internship in journalism or media-related jobs. Students must submit portfolios and evaluation forms at the end of the internship. The internship supervisor must also submit an evaluation of the student's work. Students must also maintain a work journal to obtain credit. The journal would include weekly updates that summarize notable stories covered, challenges encountered, and lessons from the internship.

This course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. However, grades will be recorded on the official transcript.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7002. News editing (6 credits)

The course teaches students how to line edit, concept edit, prepare headlines and other graphic elements, rewrite and compile news stories, avoid legal and ethical quandaries, and select and package copy and art, including multimedia. These skills are taught for print and Web publication.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisite: JMSC6001. Reporting and writing

JMSC7007. Interpreting and using business journalism in a global era (6 credits)

For news and non-news majors, this course analyzes global sources and types of media content related to the securities markets, national and international economic regulation, the global banking system, international trade, and macroeconomics. The course also surveys major financial issues likely to dominate over the next three to five years, such as climate change, trade harmonization, multinational companies and global market regulation. The course emphasizes global financial news and how to use it in personal and professional decision-making.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Reporting and writing courses

JMSC6014. Advanced reporting and writing (English) (6 credits)

This course is for those who have successfully completed Semester One Basic Newswriting and Reporting, who want or need further work on their basic newswriting skills, and who want to try to apply those skills writing short breaking news stories in a newsroom-like laboratory setting, mastering short wire-service style news stories and working under deadline pressure.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisite: JMSC6001 Reporting and writing

JMSC6088. Reporting the environment (6 credits)

This course will look in depth at several areas of the environment that are currently in the public eye to provide an understanding of the issues behind these areas and look at how they are being reported. Students will report and write stories for an online environmental newswire.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6090. Reporting health and medicine (6 credits)

This course provides students with the basic skills and knowledge required to specialise in this rapidly growing field of journalism. Students will be introduced to basic concepts of clinical medicine and epidemiology, learn how to interpret medical statistics, write stories based on research appearing in medical journals and learn to evaluate the different sources of medical news.

Students do not need a background in science or medicine to take this course. The course will have a strong practical element and students will visit clinics and research centres and get a first hand understanding of what doctors do, and how the health system works. They will also write health stories for a health news website.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6103. Reporting global affairs (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the world of foreign correspondence, including the challenges and rewards of reporting on complex global issues. These range from wars and conflicts to scarcity of natural resources to the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities. Students will critically examine the coverage of countries and topics in the international media, hear first-hand from correspondents in the field, and examine the crucial interplay of international reporting, public opinion and foreign policy decision-making. Students will also learn how to cover international "beats" by being assigned countries and global themes that they will report on each week in the class and for the course's global news website. Taught by instructors with a broad range of varied international reporting experiences, and supplemented by guest lecturers and visitors, this is a course for aspiring foreign correspondents or others interested in expanding their knowledge of global issues in the media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6107. Reporting science (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the skills required to make a career in science journalism. From exploring the origins of the universe and the future of life on earth, to producing technologies to improve our lives, science deals with issues that are both exciting and important. Students will learn to write both science feature stories, as well as shorter news stories.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6111. Long form and feature writing (English) (6 credits)

This course aims to widen students' knowledge of journalistic forms and deepen their story-telling ability in English. It focuses on profiles, features, news features, news analyses and opinion writing, including editorials, columns, essays and reviews. Through lectures, examination of quality works and writing assignments, students learn how facts can be turned into stories with insights and points of view.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6114. Opinion writing (6 credits)

The course will give students an overview of the dynamic field of opinion journalism – a growing area that includes Op-Ed articles, personal essays, blog posts, columns and more. In this writing-centered seminar, students will learn to pinpoint story ideas, craft sharp pitches and write lively and compelling essays. Students who work hard will become better writers.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7001. Entertainment, arts and culture journalism (6 credits)

In this course, we will explore the different forms of coverage of arts and culture, a key component for most media. The course will review some of the stories that journalists have written or produced about art and culture in a variety of media in recent years to learn what differences exist between such coverage and traditional news coverage. It will focus on traditional modes of covering arts and culture including profile interviews, reviews, longer-form articles and programmes, and documentaries. We'll look at these modes across different media platforms from online to print to broadcast. The course also will take a specific look at the cultural scene in Hong Kong, as well as international coverage of entertainment, arts and culture. You will spend time out covering cultural events in Hong Kong over the course of the semester. The course also features key guest lecturers from the creative industries in Hong Kong and also cultural media.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7003. Global economic journalism (6 credits)

This course focuses on the global economic system and its components, including local, national and regional economies. The course familiarizes students with global macroeconomic theories and their histories, and how to use them journalistically. Economic indicators, central banks and their regulatory regime, international trade and its regulation, and supranational organizations such as the World Bank and IMF comprise the core of the course. Major issues such as economic growth; inflation; protectionism and international economic competition; development economics; and the global economic system comprise the coverage areas of the course. The course prepares students for reporting positions at financial media, including newspapers, specialized Web sites, broadcasters and wire services. This is a hands-on course during which students will produce multiple news packages for publication.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC7008. Global financial journalism (6 credits)

Students learn how to conceptualize, source and prepare news reports on global financial markets, commercial transactions and company performance. The course covers stock, bond and derivatives markets; company earnings, balance-sheet and cash-flow analysis; commercial and investment banking; and the “deals” market. The course prepares students for reporting positions at financial media, including newspapers, specialized Web sites, broadcasters and global wire services. This is a hands-on course during which students will produce multiple news packages for publication.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Multimedia courses

JMSC6082. Photojournalism (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of news photography: how to operate a professional digital camera and how to capture professional-quality news images. Using Hong Kong as a backdrop, students learn how to shoot images of urban news and feature events. By the end of the class each student will have produced a comprehensive photographic portfolio.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6100. Documentary video production (12 credits)

This course trains students to produce documentary videos for television. The course covers research, exploration of different styles and perspectives, and the structuring of documentaries as well as ethical and legal issues. Guest speakers, including television programmers and funding agencies, will shed light on fundraising and the pitching of ideas. Students will work in groups to produce a project proposal and a 20-minute documentary.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6101. Radio news (6 credits)

In this course, we will explore the different forms of radio news, how to find stories and turn them into good radio. We will learn how to use the equipment needed to turn a print story into radio and learn how to edit digitally using Adobe Audition 3. Emphasis will be placed on sourcing stories, good interviewing technique, writing for radio, moving a story on, learning how to read the news, and feature making. We will also discuss journalistic ethics and study the legal restrictions within which broadcast journalists work. The course will have a very practical focus.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6106. The craft and art of documentary film editing (6 credits)

This course aims to guide student through the various stages of digital editing and post-production phase of documentary production. Students will actively participate in the editing of their own material.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6108. Broadcast journalism (6 credits)

This course focuses on the practice of reporting news and features for broadcast. Emphasis is placed on writing for the ear and the marriage of words and picture. After an introduction to the development of radio and television news internationally, students receive hands-on training during intensive weekly workshop sessions. Students work with news agency video to structure and hone writing skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework

Innovation courses

JMSC6113. Data journalism (6 credits)

This course will provide students the tools needed to find and ask for information, basic computer-assisted reporting skills to make sense of data, and journalistic techniques to identify, report and write the stories for a general audience.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6116. Social media analytics for journalists (6 credits)

This course is designed to provide training for master-level journalism or communication major students about the basic techniques of web and social media analytics. It covers a variety of tools that help them conduct a range of applications including web scraping, API programming, text mining, sentiment analysis, network analysis, data visualization, as well as web site analytics. The course is designed and taught in problem-based or project-driven mode which aims to facilitate real life application of the techniques in a variety of media and communication settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework

JMSC6117. Digital media entrepreneurship (6 credits)

Digital media is radically transforming the industry in which students will practice journalism during their careers. This practicum will provide students with an intense 12-week introduction to the key trends shaping the media industry today as a foundation for the key focus of the course, media entrepreneurship. The course will focus on the process of conceiving, developing and creating a new media business in the context of these key trends.

Assessment: 100% coursework
