

JOUR 4885 Honours Project in International Journalism (3,*,*)

In this course students integrate theory and practice by either producing a substantial piece of individually produced Journalism/Broadcast Journalism; or an academic dissertation. In either case the Honours Project is a means of engaging the student in a piece of independent research that provides an analytical and critical evaluation of an idea. The course tests research and professional skills as well as the ability to apply theoretical insights.

JOUR 7010 International Relations Theory and Practice (3,3,0)

This course aims to investigate the various theoretical and analytical frameworks in the field of international relations. A review of the dominant paradigms in international relations will facilitate a more advanced understanding of the transformation of the global order in the 21st century among students with a journalism background. Topical issues in international news such as terrorism, the implications of 9/11, the US-Iraq war and Chinese foreign relations will be covered.

JOUR 7020 Comparative and International News (3,3,0)

This course introduces students to the various forms of national news media systems that have developed at different times and in different locations round the world to enable them to compare and re-assess their own news media. Theories and concepts developed to explain and categorise why news media systems have developed differently will be analysed and studied in the context of comparison of case studies. The course also introduces students to the international news system, and to its connections with national matters and to its changes due to the appearance of the internet in the last 20 years. The meanings and implications of the concept of press freedom will be discussed. There will be an emphasis on the news media systems of East and Southeast Asia.

JOUR 7030 Research Methods in Media and Communication (3,3,0)

The goal of the course is to 1) familiarise students with the main types of measurement and collection of evidence in the field of mass communication, particularly journalism; 2) provide students with a critical framework for evaluating mass media production process and product, communication and communication research conducted by others; 3) give students first-hand experience in the research process; and 4) sensitise students to the need to answer communication and related questions in a scientific manner either as the producers or the consumers of journalism.

JOUR 7040 Multimedia Journalism (3,3,0)

The multimedia journalism laboratory course provides introductory hands-on experience reporting and producing news stories through many different digital story telling techniques, including photography, audio, and video. Under supervision, students locate, research, report, edit, and produce multimedia stories of local and international interest. Students will be expected to work both as reporters (i.e. finding and gathering content) and editors (i.e. processing and producing content) on individual assignments and on a group final assignment. All students taking the MAIJ Programme are required to participate in this course.

JOUR 7050 Newsgathering for International Practice (3,3,0)

This course introduces students to the professional practices of reporting and producing news items for international news media. Students will examine news stories produced for global consumption and learn how international news production differs from local and domestic news production. They will become aware of the ethical dimensions and social implications of international news practice with a view to identifying references that are less socio-culturally centred than in local news.

(Note: Experienced journalists may be exempted from this course with the approval of the Programme Director. It must be replaced with an elective course.)

JOUR 7060 News and Feature Writing (3,2,1)

This course will help students apply fundamental newsgathering and writing techniques to real-world reporting. Students will also improve English-language newswriting skills through the analysis of professional news articles and learn to convey information in a concise and engaging style as needed for international journalism. Though a variety of skills will be addressed, this course focuses on feature writing. In addition, students will create and maintain an online professional portfolio appropriate for a journalist.

JOUR 7070 Theories of Journalism and Communication (3,3,0)

This course examines the theoretical perspectives and practices regarding the performance, role, functions, and effects of journalism and media in modern society, with a specific emphasis on issues in the Greater China region. It aims (1) to introduce students to some of the main scholarly ideas about journalism and the mass media as social institutions; (2) to assess critically these ideas in relation to their social context; (3) to examine critically the extent to which these illuminate the production and reception of journalism, particularly in the Greater China region.

JOUR 7080 Current Issues and Case Studies in International News (3,3,0)

This course is designed to help students appreciate, through topical case studies, the major factors and contemporary trends shaping coverage of international news. It seeks to provide students with a framework for gaining a deeper understanding of the multiple ways media outlets cover international news. Students are expected to take an active role in raising topics of interest and debate issues in class and through written work. The course is designed to allow plenty of flexibility to provide a fast response to breaking news. Some topics may be dropped, others added, to allow a lively debate on the most recent issues in international news.

JOUR 7090 International News Translation (3,3,0)

This course aims at enhancing the student's ability in handling information for news purpose in the bilingual context of Hong Kong. Emphasis is put on developing the student's sensitivity to the difference between the Chinese and English language and awareness of the cultural role of the news translator. Against this background, principles and methods appropriate to a variety of contexts of news translation are introduced. This is an elective course for all Journalism Option students.

JOUR 7100 Advanced News Writing and Production for International Practice (3,3,0)

Prerequisite: JOUR 7050 Newsgathering for International Practice and JOUR 7060 News and Feature Writing

This course covers international beat reporting, feature writing and opinion writing, but the emphasis will be on covering hard news. Students will gather information, find and interview sources for international stories for general news and specialist areas. They will also learn to report and write features for foreign for international audiences and to produce their own opinion pieces. They will be introduced to basic concepts of layout, including type, font and design and learn how to write headlines and captions.

JOUR 7110 Reporting International Conflict (3,3,0)

This course will examine the work of war reporters in a variety of wars as well as explore the nature of war and the interaction between the experience of warfare and the conventional accounts of it. It will consider the role of history, mythology and reportage in forming beliefs and expectations about war and peace. Students will encounter a wide variety of theories about international conflict and its relationship to international news and will be encouraged to formulate and express their own positions on the matter.