

FIRST SEMESTER		SECOND SEMESTER	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF JOURNALISM Rod Amner		INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM & DIGITAL MEDIA Kayla Roux	INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE MEDIA TBA



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## JMS 1

*A big welcome to all JMS 1 students. The first year is designed to introduce you to media studies and give you a basic knowledge of journalistic skills.*

**TERM 1 TO 4:** Four LECTURES per week. One hour-long TUTORIAL per week.

#### TIMES AND VENUES FOR LECTURES

There are four lectures a week.  
The venue is Eden Grove Red.  
Monday 16.05  
Tuesday 12.20  
Wednesday 14.15  
Thursday 15.10

#### TUTORIALS AND LOA'S

You will be allocated to a weekly tutorial according to your timetable and will be notified regarding your group via the JMS 1 listserv, no later than the second week of first term. Attendance at all JMS 1 tutorials and the submission of all work throughout the year by deadline are necessary course requirements should

you wish to retain your DP Certificate. This Certificate is what you will need in order to write your examinations.

Should you have a legitimate reason with supporting documentation as to why you cannot attend a tutorial or submit an assignment, Leaves of Absence should be applied for in advance, but no later than seven days following absence/non-submission. An application is not a guarantee of an approval. The AMM office is the only place where LOA's can be lodged. Tutors or lecturers may grant these.

For further information on LOA's please refer to the LOA section of this handbook.

#### TERMS 1 & 2

At the School of Journalism and Media Studies we believe that studying journalism offers enormous practical, political, ethical and theoretical challenges, and that this prepares you to be reflective, critical practitioners in a range of careers. In this introductory, semester-long course we will explore both the theory and practice of journalism, because in our view the two cannot be separated – theory can help to explain and improve practice and practice can help to explore and refine theory.

You can expect to encounter and practice a number of foundational journalism skills this semester: for example, how to find compelling story ideas, how to conduct thorough journalistic research, how to organise your information into written form and how to edit what you've written. But, you will also draw on interdisciplinary critical

theories to help you situate your practical knowledge critically within broader economic, historical and theoretical contexts.

In other words, you will be expected to nurture knowledge and critical understanding of journalism as a social practice, but also to produce publishable and socially valuable journalism.

#### TERM 3

In this course, students explore how Digital Media use changes social practices of journalism within mass media. In addition, students are introduced to emerging concepts, tools and routines related to digital networked journalism and contemporary media work. Cognisant of a multi-platform approach to reporting, students learn to prepare, gather, curate, write, augment, publish and promote various forms of basic journalism on online news sites, blogs and social media.

**TERM 4**

In this term, you will be introduced to the study of the media. We move from common-sense understandings and professional understandings of the media into theoretical-critical territory. We start to learn the language and concepts media theorists use to ask questions about and understand how the media works in the world we live in today. We also focus on certain key features of the media saturation of our world.

**MARK ALLOCATION****COURSE WORK: 62.5%****MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:**

Introduction to Journalism: 37.5%;  
Introduction to digital media: 12.5%  
Introduction to the study of the media: 12.5%;

**EXAMS: 37.5%****MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:**

June exam: 12.5%  
(3 hours, 1st semester work)  
November exam: 25%  
(3 hours, 2nd semester work)

**ENTRY TO JMS 2**

There are 120 places in JMS 2.

**TO MAKE SURE YOU QUALIFY FOR A PLACE:**

- » Work consistently all year and aim for good marks in every course and exam.
- » Hand in all work required for the coursework component of your courses. To miss even one assignment is to jeopardise your chance of a place.
- » You need to do **VACATION WORK** in the first half of the year to get industry-related experience. You must get a media-related job (minimum 40 hours) during the April or June vacations and/or you may choose to work for campus or Grahamstown media such as Activate, The Oppidan Press, Grocott's Mail, Radio Grahamstown or RMR during the course of the year. Students who do a variety of media work are at an advantage in their applications, but only work from 201 will be considered.

You will be briefed in more detail on what is to be included in your JMS 2 application in the first term, and all relevant information will be posted online.

**YOUR JMS 2 APPLICATION MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:**

1. A completed questionnaire that provides the information we require to help us realise the goals we have set ourselves as a school;
2. Concise and reasoned responses to a set of evaluative questions;
3. A portfolio of extra-mural activities: for example, evidence of active membership of student societies, a report on involvement in volunteer work, or a report on participation in any form of social action;
4. A critical reflection on your vacation work and/or campus media work;
5. An evaluation form to be completed by your media employer/s;
6. A questionnaire on your tutorial performance to be completed by your tutor. Your tutor will complete this on your behalf. You do not need to submit it yourself.
7. This information, your tutor's report, and most importantly, your academic marks, are used to inform the selection process for acceptance into JMS 2.

You will submit your application in October; date and place to be announced. You will not be considered for a place in JMS 2 if you do not make this submission.

When the final year results are announced we will offer 120 places to successful candidates.

To ensure your place, you must send us a letter of confirmation (method to be specified) to reach the school by a set date to be announced. If we do not get your letter, we will not hold your place for you and it will be offered to someone else.

**NB: You will not qualify to enter JMS 2 unless you have passed at least two other first year credits in addition to JMS 1.**

Vacation work is to be completed during the April and/or June/July vacations. Do not leave this to the September vacation.