

Syllabus

Basic Of News Journalism

Oleg Dmitriev, «Rossiya segodnya», HSE(oadmitriev@hse.ru)

Oleg Shchedrov, Rossiya segodnya

Sean Michael Thomas, RT

Andrey Kiyashko, RT

Pre-requisites

Fluent command of English – both oral and written.

Basic knowledge about history, world news and current international affairs, interest in storytelling, interest in world news.

Abstract

Television, radio and online news are conversational media. For this reason it is very important to write modern news in a conversational way that would be attractive to a worldwide audience. During the course the students will learn the basics in text writing. Besides, the students will also grasp basic ideas about basic principles of journalism, writing stories, creating powerful headlines. In addition they will learn more about key principles of story planning. They will also learn the tricks of storytelling from reporters with native English.

Learning Objectives

The students will master their skills in news writing in English for different types of media (news agency, radio, TV, online platforms). They will also learn how to find an interesting and powerful angle for the story

Learning Outcomes

The students will be able to produce media text suitable for various media in proper English with full understanding of the way the text is perceived in different media and platforms.

Course plan:

Unit 1. What should we know before we start writing news

What do we know about modern media consumer. How we can reach him for the story? How do we reach him when the news breaks fast? How to tell the news story?

Unit 2. Where we get the news from

Sources of information: strengths and weaknesses How to analyze the source of the information. Finding the background for the story. Getting all the basic information. Writing the background material

Unit 3. What is a short news item?

Pros and cons of traditional news writing. What is a topline and how we can find it.

Unit 4. Writing stories for the news agency

Structure of the story for the news agency. What to use and not to use for the news story. Writing short stories on international affairs.

Unit 5. Headlines and leads.

How to come up with good headlines and leads. Case studies of good and bad headlines.

Writing good headlines for international media.

Unit 6: Journalist at the press conference.

What is a press conference and what a journalist can get from this. How to come up with the questions for the audience.

Unit 7: Reporting the news.

The role of the reporters. How to do reporting for radio, TV and the web. Live coverage and pre-recorded

Unit 8: Planning the news coverage

How to find a unique idea for a dull news story. What is an angle. How to plan a news for various news platforms.

Special Equipment and Software Support

The students need any laptop or desktop computer with any online access. Microsoft Word is a must.

Grading System

The final grade is based on the average mark of every teacher according to the following formula

Individual tasks	30%
Work during seminars a attendance	20%
Final tests	50%

Optional reading list

A handbook of journalism: media in the information age / Ed. by V. E. Anand, K. Jayanthi. – Los Angeles [etc.]: SAGE Publications, 2018. – 305 c.

Journalism re-examined: digital challenges and professional reorientations: lessons from Northern Europe / Ed. by M. Eide, H. Sjovaag, L. O. Larsen. – Bristol: Intellect, 2016. – 226 c. –
The principles of multimedia journalism: packaging digital news / R. K. Hernandez, J. Rue. – London; New York: Routledge, 2016. – 217 c. - III.