



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD*

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Investigative Journalism in the Southern Neighbourhood

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

SABBAGH Rana

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

HAMMAMI Amel

COURSE TYPE

Compact Seminar

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

TEACHING HOURS

8

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not
applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course seeks to introduce both a definition of investigative journalism and how it differs from general news reporting. It will also demonstrate how investigative journalism stories begin and what they require: professionally, politically, and legally. The course will introduce the history of investigative journalism, the ethics of investigative journalism and the role of accountability journalism in society, with a special focus on the Southern Neighbourhood, where the level of democratisation, independent media, and free speech varies from country to country.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course introduces and examines the importance of independent media, specifically investigative journalism, a form of journalism in which reporters deeply investigate an issue of importance to the public, such as serious crimes, political corruption, corporate wrongdoing, miscarriage of justice or abuse of power, for the benefit of accountability, democracy and transparency. An investigative journalist may spend months or years researching a report. This form of "accountability journalism" represents the "Fourth Estate", which should remain independent of the three branches of power: executive, legislative and legal to ensure the rule of law and protect democracy. Investigative journalism provides well-documented information to society, offers a platform for debate and allows civil society, officials and parliamentarians to push for change for the better, using the results exposed in the in-depth report.

* The content of this ECTS card is based on the information from the 2022-23 academic year and may be subject to change.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students are encouraged to read key references in the bibliography (see below).

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will introduce concepts followed by group discussions to enable students to identify the key parameters they can use as benchmarks to test the level of independent media and effectiveness of investigative journalism in the Southern Neighbourhood and beyond.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The compact seminar will be assessed on a 'pass/fail' basis through:

- an online closed multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) after the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the compact seminar.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since compact seminars carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: What is Investigative Journalism, and how it differs from general news reporting

Session 2: The Image and Reality of Investigative Journalism

Session 3: How Investigative Journalism Stories Begin and the political, professional and legal enablers needed for this genre of journalism.

Session 4: History of Investigative Journalism from 1900 onward.

Session 5: Ethics of Investigative Journalism.

Session 6: The Role of Investigative Journalism in Society.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Check the course outline.