

MODULE 9: Radio Documentary Research & Production

Stage	1						
Semester	2						
Module Title	Radio Documentary Research & Production						
Module Number/Reference	9						
Module Status (Mandatory/Elective)	Mandatory						
Module ECTS credit	5						
Module NFQ level (only if applicable)	9						
Pre-requisite Module Titles	Semester One Modules						
Co-requisite Module Titles							
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No						
List of Module Teaching Personnel	Anne Daly						
Contact Hours				Non-contact Hours			Total Effort (Hours)
Lecture	Practical	Tutorial	Seminar	Assignment	Placement	Independent work	
24		12		36		48	120
Allocation of Marks (Within the Module)							
	Continuous Assessment	Project	Practical	Final Examination		Total	
Percentage contribution		100				100	

Intended Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Use advanced methods to research, produce and present a radio documentary to industry standards.
2. Critically evaluate professional practice in audio media, to develop a radio documentary that can communicate effectively to targeted audiences.
3. Produce, record and edit at an advanced level.
4. Critically Analyse documentary genres and types, particularly in terms of narrative, storytelling, sound effects and structure, and reflect on these critical evaluations in order to create own work.
5. Use integrated journalistic skills to conduct interviews suitable for broadcast.
6. Demonstrate and effectively articulate a programme idea which shows a comprehensive knowledge of the journalistic and editorial skills needed to realise the idea within a specific time frame.

Module Objectives

This module aims to enable learners to:

- Understand the centrality of storytelling in documentary making.
- Gain knowledge in creating and planning radio documentaries and the confidence to develop documentary pitches.
- Enhance research expertise and ability to identify reliable sources for different documentary genres.
- Move from conscious to critical listening.
- Develop the technical skills and sound competence to produce a radio documentary that engages the listener and equips the learner to enter the field of professional radio documentary making.
- Create a storyboard that integrates creativity, technical, editorial and written skills.
- Demonstrate technical expertise and mastery suitable for professional broadcast.

Module Curriculum

Indicative Syllabus

The Radio Documentary: Understanding the Genre

Producing a radio documentary requires technical, intellectual, artistic and editorial skills and expertise on the part of the radio journalist. The learner is introduced to the genre thorough listening exercises and tutorials, which show how the documentary differs in structure and approach from a news and news feature programme. This section of the module introduces the learner to the myriad of styles and approaches including the importance of sound excellence demanded by the broadcast to industry.

Selection of Topic:

How do I select the best topic for my documentary? What documentary style best suits my chosen topic? What are the steps required to produce my documentary? This section of the module includes support for learners in assembling material and developing their documentary concept and creating a “storyboard” for each individual production.

Editorial Approach:

Learners listen to several documentaries and analyse their different production approaches. The focus is on the role of the producer and the methods employed in gathering audio material. Learners are supported in enhancing their abilities to conduct research and articulate their ideas. They work in groups listening to assigned documentaries. Developing listening skills is a priority as learners are assisted in analyzing approaches adopted by producers to move a story forward from conception to the final production. Production techniques are discussed and

analyzed in the context of presenting personal to investigative type topics as well as transitions, ambience and structure.

Writing a Documentary Proposal - Pitching and Planning

Learners are trained in the pitching and planning of their documentary proposals. The emphasis is on scheduling, finance and what need to be priorities to ensure proposals can demonstrate an ability to be produced to meet broadcast deadlines. Various approaches in preparing proposals are discussed and analyzed. All learners become involved in writing a documentary proposal that incorporates aims/objectives of the production, subject matter, logistics, length and personnel to bring to fruition.

Reading lists and other learning material:

- Breman, Jim. 2006. Programme making for radio. London:New York; Routledge
Bronner, K., 2009. *Audio branding: brands, sound and communication* 1. ed., Baden-Baden Germany: Nomos Edition Reinhard Fischer.
Goodman, A., 2009. *Breaking the sound barrier*, Chicago IL: Haymarket Books.
Geller, V., 2011. *Beyond powerful radio: a communicator's guide to the internet age : news, talk, information & personality for broadcasting, podcasting, internet, radio*, Amsterdam; Boston: Elsevier/Focal Press.
Hesse, J., 1987. *The radio documentary handbook: creating, producing and selling for broadcast*, Vancouver, Canada: International Self-Counsel Press.

There is a range of radio documentaries and aural material online which learners should listen to as part of this module:

RTE Documentaries

- <http://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/>
<http://storycorps.org/listen/>
<https://itunes.apple.com/ie/podcast/newstalk-documentaries/id268117291>
<http://newint.org/blog/2012/09/25/crashing-david-hartnett-s-party/>
Ira Glass on Storytelling
http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2007/03/ira_glasstips_o.html
Murray Schafer
<http://soundexplorations.blogspot.ie/2011/09/documentary-listen.html>

Module Learning Environment

The learning environment is lecture and studio based and is designed to encourage critical thinking and best practice. The module is structured in a way that encourages an understanding of the centrality of storytelling in the radio documentary. Learners are encouraged and supported with reading material to examine role of narrative, writing, listening, hearing and interviewing. This is achieved by listening to a range of different documentaries across a number of different documentary genres selected for their different styles and approaches. In the radio studio learners are guided and supported in developing a technical mastery necessary to complete a radio documentary to professional broadcast standard.

Learners also have access to Moodle, the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

- Studio tutorials
- Formal Lectures
- Guest Lectures
- Off campus workshops and tutorials

Module Assessment Strategy

Learners are required to produce a radio documentary, with supporting documentation, at the end of this module. During the module learners demonstrate their ability to develop a programme idea from pitch to final product and the radio documentary produced at the end must be suitable for broadcast, with supporting documentation demonstrating the research and production process.

Element Number	Weighting	Type	Description
1	100	Radio Documentary	Learners are required to submit a 15-20 minute radio documentary with supporting documentation.