

MODULE 6: Radio and TV News and Current Affairs

Stage	1						
Semester	2						
Module Title	Radio and TV News and Current Affairs						
Module Number/Reference	6						
Module Status (Mandatory/Elective)	Mandatory						
Module ECTS credit	10						
Module NFQ level (only if applicable)	9						
Pre-requisite Module Titles	Semester One Modules						
Co-requisite Module Titles	Video Journalism						
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No						
List of Module Teaching Personnel	Alice Childs, John O'Donovan, Anne Daly						
Contact Hours				Non-contact Hours			Total Effort (Hours)
Lecture	Practical	Tutorial	Seminar	Assignment	Placement	Independent work	
36	36			72		96	240
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. Demonstrate a technical and journalistic understanding and application of the key roles and team co-ordination integral to the efficient operation of a broadcast newsroom
2. Deploy advanced production skills evidenced in TV and Radio packages of professional and industry standard
3. Recognize, critically reflect on and achieve high standards of professional practice (intellectual, social and technical skills) in the production of radio and television news.

4. Demonstrate appropriate use of emergent technologies in news gathering and production
5. Work collaboratively and effectively in a pressured newsroom environment.

Module Aims

This module aims to:

Support and facilitate learners in becoming professional journalists, where “professional” means being...

1. Trained to work as a journalist in news and current affairs
2. Develop editorial judgment applicable at every level of television and radio news production
3. Multi-skilled and technically competent in television and radio news production
4. Have advanced knowledge of the essential tools required to enter the field of radio news and current affairs journalism.
5. Capable of exercising sound judgment in news gathering and broadcasting information

Module Objectives

By the end of the module learners will be capable of ...

1. Working in a professional television or radio news environment
2. Producing individual television and radio news and features packages which reflect their technical competence and editorial skills
3. Working individually but also as fully effective team members within small groups
4. Researching, writing, reporting, interviewing and presenting television and radio news
5. Demonstrating an understanding of news gathering

Module Curriculum

Indicative Syllabus

Understanding News and Current Affairs Broadcasting

This section sets out the broadcast industry standard skills necessary to work in the industry and deliver quality television and radio news programming. This topic includes exploring features of the genre and programme elements. In also examining the functions of a news room, in-depth and integrated programme teams' roles and individual responsibilities are explained, discussed and put into practice as learners gain experience of the environment of a radio and TV newsroom. This topic also looks at the fundamental business structure and advancements in the Irish TV and radio industry. It examines the emerging technologies and initiatives in the industry, with particular focus on social and new media as well as interactivity in the medium.

Theory & Application

This section has an in-depth focus on getting learners to critically analyse the methods and ways to approach and develop stories for broadcast. The importance of research and of sourcing and referencing material, checking and verifying sources is reinforced in this section. In TV we look at visual methodologies, developing proposals and treatments, composition, visual sequences and visual story telling.

Technical Production

This topic focuses on the commercial industry production skills necessary to use the studio production facilities proficiently, learners are taught advanced mic techniques, desk skills, advanced editing skills in radio journalism, including multi-tracking, advanced use of portable recording equipment, the importance of superior sound quality and the effective use of audio clips. In relation to television journalism, camera basics, digital editing and digital technology in image making are also addressed in this section.

News Broadcasting Ethics

Issues pertaining to the delivery and dissemination of information through the medium of television and radio are paramount in the current landscape and the emergence of social media has made this even more relevant. This topic builds on the Media Law & Ethics module of the first semester and explores how recent libel, privacy, decency, standards and ethical issues that have impacted in real terms on newsrooms and the broadcasting of material.

Reading lists and other learning materials

Recommended Reading

Chantler, P. and Steward, P. (2009) *Essential Radio Journalism: How to Produce and Present Radio News*, Publisher: Methuen

Frost, C. (2003). *Reporting for journalists*. London, Routledge.

Geller, V. (2011) *Beyond Powerful Radio, Second Edition: A Communicator's Guide to the Internet Age-News, Talk, Information & Personality for Broadcasting, Podcasting, Internet, Radio*, Publisher: Focal Press

Harcup, T. (2004). *Journalism: principles and practice*. London [etc.], Sage.

Herbert, J. (2000). *Journalism in the digital age: theory and practice for broadcast, print and on-line media*. Oxford, Focal Press.

Hudson, g., & Rowlands, S. (2007). *The broadcast journalism handbook*. Harlow, England, Pearson Longman.

McLeish, R. (2005). *Radio production*. Amsterdam, Focal Press.

Ray, V. (2003). *The television news handbook: an insider's guide to being a great broadcast journalist*. London, Macmillan

Willett, A. *Media Production: A Practical Guide to Radio & TV*, Publisher: Rutledge

Yorke, I. (1990). *Basic TV reporting*. London, Focal Press.

Secondary Reading

Franklin, B. (2005). *Key concepts in journalism studies*. London, Sage Publications.
Frost, C. (2007). *Journalism ethics and regulation*. Harlow, Longman.
Hollins, P. and Chantler, P. 2011. *Hang The DJ? - The Radio Presenter's Guide to the Law* Publisher: Blue Revolution & United Radio
Kaempfer, R. 2004. *The Radio Producer's Handbook* Publisher: Allworth Press;
Ward, P., BERMINGHAM, A., & WHERRY, C. (2000). *Multiskilling for television production*. Oxford, Focal P.

Module Learning Environment

The learning environment is designed to both engage the learners and to encourage their critical thinking and technical and creative skills in relation to the module. This is achieved through lecturers, technical demonstrations and practical activities which are designed to stimulate discussions and questions. As this module covers practical aspects of the media, lectures are delivered both in a lecture room, TV and radio studio and a newsroom environment.

Learners are also supported with resources to offer structure and guidance. This includes lecture notes, reading materials, as well as a detailed module curriculum which includes the learning outcomes, a class schedule, the necessary reading material and the assignment strategy. Participants also have access to Moodle, the College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and guest lecturers from the news journalism industry. The newsroom offers a simulated news environment with a live news feed.

Module Teaching and Learning Strategy

This module is supported with newsroom and TV and radio studio resources. Specifically, the module is delivered using:

- Lectures
- Participative activities
- Workshops

Module Assessment Strategy (for TV)

This module is assessed separately for Radio and Television.

The television news piece should be newsworthy, technically adept and relevant to a local audience. Duration : 2 mins approx. Learners are required to produce an extended television Feature of 4-5 mins duration. Subject can range from human interest to the arts, local culture, sports etc.

In Radio, learners are required to complete a number of tasks to demonstrate the skills required of a news broadcast journalist as well as completing one practical group radio programme assignments in the genres of news and current affairs. The learners also complete two individual news bulletin assignments. The emphasis of these assignments is to develop their practical production and broadcasting skills in

the context of an active newsroom. Learners are also assessed on their weekly participation and involvement in the radio newsroom.

Element Number	Weighting	Type	Description
1	25%	Television News piece	News package 2 mins approx. – Include piece to camera 500 work report
2	25%	Television Feature	Features package 4-5 mins approx.- can include music, vox pops, interviews etc 500 word report
3	10%	On-going Assessment of participation in the newsroom environment.	Learners are required to work weekly in a radio news environment
4	20%	Assessed News Bulletin x 2	Learners are required to broadcast a news bulletin between 5 to 7 minutes in duration, these are individual assignments.
5	20%	External Reporting	Each team to research, produce, edit and present a 15 to 20 minute news programme on external topics from the courts, council, Oireachtas and other relevant external sources relevant within the remit of News and Current Affairs.