

GUIDELINES
FOR AUTONOMOUS PROJECTS
JOURNALISM

A – Important notes:

There is no teaching attached to this class. EUCS has designed this class to make room for students' own project ideas and skills in Journalism.

So, basically, if you do not have any reliable prior experience in Journalism (basics, project, internship, professional experience etc. – or at least as serious hobby), you should not take this class. The lecturer's supervision alone might not be enough for you to catch up on all the basics and expertise needed for a successful submission.

Projects done in this class will be mainly in 4 types of journalism: print, photo, radio and video. More precisely:

- (a) Print journalism: Supervision will discuss with you some relevant aspects such as length of text and the ideal number of illustration pictures in relation to your topic. It will advise about the investigation but will teach you how to investigate and write e.g. a news report or a feature story (headline, subhead, lead etc.). As well, it will not teach you the semiotics of journalistic photography (framing and expressivity) and the techniques of photography in general (aperture, shutter speed, ISO etc.).
- (b) Photo journalism: Supervision will discuss with you aspects like the number of pictures that could best cover the journalistic storytelling of your topic (more photos, less text). But it will not teach you specifically the semiotics of journalistic photography (framing and expressivity) or the techniques of photography (aperture, shutter speed, ISO etc.), or photo editing. Besides, it will not provide the equipment (camera, software etc.), you must use your own gear.
- (c) Radio journalism: Supervision will discuss with you the type and length of your radio piece (news report, feature etc.). But it will not teach you how to record sounds, how to edit them and how to write a radio script. Besides, it will not provide the equipment (recorder, software etc.), you must use your own gear or find a project partner (radio station or sound professional).
- (d) Video journalism: Supervision will discuss with you the type and length of your video clip (news report, feature etc.). But it will not teach you how to shoot your frames, how to edit them and how to write a video script. Besides, it will not provide the equipment (camera, software etc.), you must use your own gear or find a project partner (TV station or video professional).

Except for PHOTO JOURNALISM projects, all photo, sound and video elements can be shot or recorded with a mobile phone or with any other appropriate device (professional and non-professional). Since photo journalism projects will involve technical dealing with (and comments on) aspects like aperture, shutter speed and ISO, a camera with manual and semi-auto modes (M, A, S, P) will be required (DSLR, system (MFT) or bridge camera).

However, a smartphone camera with additional manual option (e.g. Huawei P30) may be used as well.

Before contacting the lecturer, students must be able to (a) choose a Journalism type (Print, Photo, Radio or Video), and to (b) choose their own topic of investigation. Please write and send first a draft of your project exposé (see below) before asking for appointment for project discussion. Just a vague idea like “I would like to do something in the area of ...” would not help. And besides, supervision will not pick topics and journalism types for you.

B – Project Exposé

2-3 pages with the following sections:

1. Topic
2. Journalistic relevance of the topic
3. Personal experience with the type of journalism chosen (print, photo, radio, video ...)
4. Personal experience with the topic chosen
5. Project sketch including:
 - a. Working title / headline
 - b. Core message (3 lines)
 - c. Investigation strategy (interviews, research etc.)
 - d. Facts and figures needed
 - e. Prospective interview partners
 - f. Pictures / takes needed
 - g. Investigation schedule (timeline)
 - h. Production/Editing (if applicable)
 - i. Issues (if applicable)

C – Project supervision

Project exposé will be discussed in person before the project starts. Project progress will be discussed by e-mail (or in person if necessary) 3x times (progress reports).

D – Project submission

Project submission will be at the end of the semester (e.g. in the Autumn Semester 2019-2020: on February 29, 2020). Submission will be by e-mail, blog upload or on CD sent to my university postal address (I do, however, highly recommend e-mail attachment or blog upload, blog upload log-in will be given to students).

Submission version will include:

- 1. Project report (3 pages) including:**
 - a. Summary of the project
 - b. Making of

c. Personal reflections about

- Type of journalism (with focus on what you have learnt through the project)
- Topic investigated (with focus on what you have learnt through the project)

2. *The project piece (print, photo, radio, video ...)*

- Print: Article: 1.5-2 pages + pictures + caption and © of the pictures
- Photo: Photo storytelling with 10 journalistically relevant pictures + metadata comments (settings, M, A, S, or P modes) + caption and © of the pictures + written interconnection lines between the pictures (to make the transition from one picture to the next clear and easy to understand).
- Radio: Radio news report or feature (ca. 3 min) + 1x relevant picture + a short teaser (3 lines) + the radio script (text of the radio piece)
- Video: Video news report or feature (3-5 min) + a short teaser (3 lines) + the video script (text of the video clip)

More specifications may apply.

Good luck!

Contact:

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