CNN Academy Newsroom 1 (15 credits) AMST40630

This module will introduce postgraduate students to the fundamentals of news production as well as trending topics in today's digital-first media environment. Students will first grapple with ethics in journalism before learning about topics such as storytelling best practices, multiplatform content production techniques, social storytelling methods and digital tools for investigative reporting. Each week students will be required to complete multiple self-learning exercises on the CNN Academy Hub e-learning platform and submit assessments related to that week's topic. They will then take part in a 2-hour live seminar with a CNN signature talent or newsroom journalist moderated by the CNN Academy trainer. At the end of the course, students will have a much better understanding of how a newsroom operates. The course will also feature a practical learning element with students learning the fundamentals of audio storytelling and podcast production. For their final assessment, students will produce a podcast episode and accompanying write up that will be featured on UCD Clinton Institute's America Unfiltered platform.

Learning Outcomes
Students will understand the ethical considerations that go into producing news stories, learn the basic pillars of storytelling, and understand how to produce an audio story and publish it.

Indicative Module Content
- ethics in journalism
- storytelling best practices
- the art of the pitch
- multiplatform content production techniques
- digital tools for investigative reporting
- newsroom practices
- audio storytelling & podcast production

CNN Academy Newsroom 2 (15 credits) AMST40640

This module builds on the topics and discussions from Newsroom I. Students will be introduced to broadcast show production, writing for TV and digital platforms as well as a practical deep dive into video storytelling. Each week students will be required to complete multiple self-learning courses on the CNN Academy Hub e-learning platform and submit assessments related to that week's topic via the platform.

They will then take part in a 2-hour live seminar with a CNN signature talent or newsroom journalist moderated by the CNN Academy trainer. Seminars in Newsroom II will focus more on trending issues within the media industry. The course will also feature a practical learning element with students learning the fundamentals of video storytelling and mobile journalism. For their final assessment, students will have to produce a short video story on a topic related to the news agenda.

Learning Outcomes
Understand video production and the building blocks of a strong video story, learn how to structure your narrative and how to write for television, learn how to produce engaging content.

Indicative module content
- social storytelling
- investigative reporting & digital tools
- social newsgathering
- the art of the interview
- video storytelling & video editing

Journalism and International Affairs (10 credits) AMST40620

This module focuses on the roles of news media – print, broadcast and online - in the making and representation of international affairs. It will link news production and consumption to historical, economic, political and cultural contexts. It introduces students to critical debates on the political economy of international news media and the relationship between the media and state, IO and NGO actors, and the impact of news media on policy and public opinion. It will enable students to understand the basic elements of state systems and of international relations, and matters of security, conflict and human rights. It will also underline the significance of satellite broadcasting and the internet for international affairs and global news flows. Students will be encouraged to make international comparisons across regions and cultures.

Learning Outcomes
Students will achieve an understanding of the structures and practices of international news media, the ways in which this media has shaped perceptions of international affairs and how it interacts with politics and policy. The module will also sharpen students' critical awareness of current international affairs from a media perspective.

Indicative module content
A range of case study events will focus analysis, including:

- History of the news agencies
- International news flows
- Media technologies – from the telegraph to the mobile phone
- Misinformation and disinformation
- Human rights and development journalism
- Investigative journalism
- Reporting terrorism
- Photojournalism

Research Skills and Methods 1 (5 credits) AMST40660

This module introduces students to methods and tools of academic and journalistic research. It develops associated skills such as sourcing and analysing information, the presentation of written and oral work, and interviewing. It will introduce students to theoretical concepts and the nature of interdisciplinary study. The module will also begin the process of guiding students on their thesis ideas and planning, including identifying their topic, defining a suitable research question, choosing a method, and designing the research.

Learning Outcomes
The module will develop students abilities to produce interdisciplinary work, combining journalism, visual media and international affairs. It will also enable students to analyse media representations in a theoretically informed way, using cultural and visual theories to approach source material. Presentations, discussions and essay preparation will aid students in developing further skills in oral communication, the synthesis and evaluation of ideas and arguments, and develop capacity as a reflective practitioner. The module also provides opportunity for students to discuss their thesis ideas.

Indicative Module Content
- how to source and analyse information, including data
- techniques of interviewing
- writing skills
- ethical and legal issues, including data protection and freedom of information
- theoretical concepts - such as hybrid media, media logics, framing, agenda setting and indexing

Research Skills and Methods 2 (5 credits) AMST40670

This module provides guidance on skills and methods for those students preparing to either write a thesis or create a piece of multiplatform work. The module will run as a workshop focused on samples of student work. A key feature of class meetings will be for students to discuss the work of one another and offer constructive and practical criticism and feedback. The objective is to aid the conceptualisation of a project, plan how research will be undertaken, and also foster a collegiate and congenial interdisciplinary environment

Learning Outcomes
Students will develop skills in articulating a project to different audiences, preparing work to a schedule, and critically analysing work-in-progress. By the end of the module students should have a reflective grasp of their aims in writing/producing their dissertation and a clear plan of the project. Students should be able to show critical understanding of the epistemological and methodological issues involved in the research design of their project.

Indicative module content
Most classes will require the preparation of sample pieces of writing or of media production related to a particular aspect of a student's research, which will be circulated prior to the class to allow for feedback and discussion. This will include short summaries of how a project engages with current scholarship, methodology and treatment of sources, research strategies, and outlining the relevance of a project.

Option Modules

Politics and Digital Storytelling (10 credits) AMST40650

This module focuses on the dynamics between media, including new media, and political institutions and political culture in the construction, dissemination, and negotiation of digital political narratives. Through the study of these dynamics, the module aims to establish the "media literacy" to accompany "political literacy" in navigating not only information but also misinformation and disinformation. Applying theories such as priming and agenda-setting, it works with the "new networks" of a 21st-century media environment. This combined media-political literacy enables candidates to develop both academic and professional skills in understanding, interpreting, and presenting critical issues and cases in community, national,, and international politics and relations.

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop the skills to comprehend, evaluate, and negotiate media and political environments in physical and digital environs. These skills will link theoretical, conceptual, and applied approaches for advances in both academic critique and professional evaluation and presentation.

Indicative module content

- The building blocks of "media literacy", including history of media development, technologies of media, and information/propaganda/disinformation

- Central conceptual approaches such as gatekeeping, priming, and agenda-setting

- Analysis of "mediascapes"

- National and international media and political networks

- Case studies in media and political culture, communication, and conflict

Public Diplomacy (10 credits) AMST40130

This module will analyse historical and emergent roles of public diplomacy as a form of political communication and as the "soft power" wing of foreign policy. It will consider the ways in which states seek to communicate with foreign publics and represent their interests via media and cultural channels. Key issues include: the evolution of public diplomacy; soft power and smart power; the impact of new media technologies on public diplomacy; diaspora diplomacy. We will examine ways in which public diplomacy strategies are tied to but also in tension with foreign policy initiatives.

Learning Outcomes
Students will learn about key ideas and concepts in public diplomacy. They will work with multidisciplinary sources and texts, and develop skills of critical analysis and interpretation

Indicative module content
- strategic communications and information warfare
- the role of state-owned "international broadcasting"

- the promotion of educational and cultural programmes
- private/public networks and the role of non-state actors and NGOs in delivering and contesting public diplomacy goals
- the impact of new media technologies on public diplomacy

The Global Politics of Cyber Security (10 credits) AMST40560

Cyber security is no longer the exclusive preserve of disciplines like computer science or computer engineering. Rather, understanding cyber security has become a critical skill for all of us. This module will look at the ways in which new technologies, including the internet, are having a growing impact on global politics and communications – and our lives. We will investigate the meaning of the Information Revolution and cyber space; analyze the extent to which new technologies have changed traditional features of both global and US politics; and discuss their implications for international conflict and the development of international norms.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this module, you will gain a sophisticated understanding of the effects that the revolution in Information and Communications Technology is having on global politics and the important role that the United States plays in this.

Indicative module content
- wage war
- collect intelligence
- negotiate
- understand security
- spread disinformation
- privacy
- international law and norms