

**MODULE: Conflict Reporting (course code BAJH-RC)**

**Griffith College Dublin – Journalism and Visual Media**

**Fall Semester**

**This module has no pre-requisites.**

### **Introduction**

Conflict reporting has been one of the most important functions of journalism, whether print, broadcasting, television or more recently online. It has also been one of the most controversial, as the media has been criticised as apologists for power and cheer-leaders of war.

### **Module Aims**

This module aims to enable the student to:

- This module aims to equip students with a background understanding of the role of media in covering both recent and historical conflicts.
- It will also encourage students to critically evaluate media coverage of conflicts and to think through the problems involved in accurate reportage of conflict.

### **Module Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this module, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate and apply a historical overview of media coverage of conflict.
- Critically evaluate media coverage of conflicts.
- Express, from different perspectives, an advanced awareness of the difficulties involved in conflict reporting.
- Apply ethical standards to their analysis of conflict reporting and demonstrate an advanced awareness of its vital functions in contemporary democratic societies.

### **Indicative Module Content**

#### **Perceptions of war in pre-modern times**

A look at how wars were traditionally perceived and how they impacted or didn't on the wider societies from earliest times to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century

#### **Origins of Conflict Reporting**

Conflict and the development of newspapers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

#### **Reporting the two World wars**

Propaganda and reporting in the two world wars: how the media became a crucial player in warfare.

### **Cold War and hot wars: from Korea to Vietnam**

An overview of media representation of the Cold War, in both east and west, and a closer comparison of media coverage of the Korean and the Vietnamese war.

### **Media control and wars after Vietnam**

Control of media became a central objective for governments in the post-Vietnam era: a comparative view of the Falklands war, the invasions of Grenada and Panama, and the first Gulf War

### **9/11 and the Long War**

9/11 and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and now Pakistan

### **War, censorship**

State censorship and media manipulation, the role of monopolies in controlling war reporting.

### **Objectivity**

The notion of objectivity and criticism's of it. The problems of detachment and perspective; access to sources

### **Alternative journalism and conflict reporting**

The role of independent reporters in classic conflicts, fictional technique and factual reporting; John Reed on the Russian revolution, Graham Greene on the Mexican revolution, George Orwell on Spain, Michael Herr on Vietnam, Ryszard Kapuscinski on conflicts in the Third World.

### **Technological change and conflict reporting**

Technology and news; from the telegraph to the internet, the search in America for alternative international news.

### **Assessment**

The module will be assessed by assignment work (Continuous Assessment 100%) being (a) a critical analysis essay of the work of: (i) a particular war correspondent over their career, or, of a particular conflict over a range of media products; and (b) a reflective and critical essay on the state of contemporary conflict reporting, or, a reflective and critical essay on reporting of an historical conflict.