

MODULE: **CONFLICT REPORTING**

CODE: **BAJH-3-1-09**
Number of Credits: **4 semester credits / 6 quarter units**
Stage: **Consolidation and Specialisation (III)**
Theme: **Media skills**
Assessment Weighting: **Project: 40%**
Exam 60%

INTRODUCTION

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

SYLLABUS

Origins of conflict reporting

Conflict and origins of newspapers; from the early modern newsheets to the newspaper; newspapers and conflict in late 18th, 19th and early 20th century Ireland.

War correspondents up till the Second World War

The mass newspapers of the 19th century and the changes this produced in war reportage, correspondents and the US civil war, censorship, advocacy and the First world war, the media in the Third Reich and the USSR, journalists in the Second World War.

The media, the Cold War and the new World order:

The construction of the 'enemy', 'glasnost' and changes in enemy images; the role of the media in constructing new enemies.

Covering Vietnam:

How media coverage escaped the military control and undermined the US war effort,

the 5 o'clock follies and TV's real life violence, the role of photography

Media coverage of Northern Ireland conflict:

The change in coverage, key events, the impact of 'Section 31, sources, the use of language in reporting; comparing different media coverage of the NI conflict; media responses to the Peace Process.

Learning the lesson of Vietnam The Falklands and Kosovo

Debate within military/security establishments on the lesson of Vietnam, Controlling the movement of reporters; the new art of creating news stories.

The two Gulf Wars:

A comparison of the media's coverage of the two Gulf Wars, the role of 'embedded' media; pre-emptive wars and pre-emptive news

Conflict and censorship:

State censorship and media manipulation; the role of monopolies in controlling war reporting; how lobby systems work.

War and 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.