

MODULE: POLITICAL AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

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| Semester: | II (Spring) |
| Stage: | II - Development and Integration |
| Theme: | Media skills |
| Assessment Weighting: | Exam 50%; Assessment: 50% |
| Number of Credits: | 4 semester credits/6 quarter units |

INTRODUCTION

Investigation is the heart and soul of the journalist profession and politics is the most crucial area for the work of the investigative journalist. Much of the work of the investigative journalist is based upon direct experience and intimate contact that cannot be replicated in a college environment. Students however can learn how institutions work and how best to go about establishing leads and developing stories.

MODULE AIMS

To equip students with a practical knowledge of the operation of Irish and European political institutions and the research skills necessary for working as an investigative journalist.

MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This module supports the following programme learning outcomes:

- Apply the knowledge gained to working in a practical media contest
- Assume employment as a political or investigative reporter
- Construct and present material for newspapers or other media organisations
- Develop stories focussing on the workings of Irish political life

It does this by specifically ensuring that on module completion, students will be in a position to:

- Distinguish between the different branches of government in Ireland and the key institutions of the EU;
- Explain the practical workings of Irish general and local elections;
- Critically appraise information procured from government and lobby groups
- Evaluate changes in party support
- Carry out practical research using the Freedom of Information Act

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Unseen examinations: 50%
Continuous assessment: 50%