

COURSE DESCRIPTION (Group C)

Course code	Course group	Volume in ECTS credits	Course valid from	Course valid to	Reg. No.
KOM5019	C	6	2012.06.20	2014.06.20	

Course type (compulsory or optional)	Compulsory
Course level (study cycle)	Graduate
Semester the course is delivered	Autumn
Study form (face-to-face or distant)	Face-to-face

Course title in Lithuanian

Reporterio darbo specifika

Course title in English

Fundamentals in News Reporting

Short course annotation in Lithuanian (up to 500 characters)

Kursas studentus supažindina su spaudos tikslais, užduotimis bei metodais ir išmoko atlikti interviu ir rašyti bei redaguoti žinias, reportažus, analitinius bei kitokius publicistinius straipsnius ir autorinius komentarus. Antroje kurso dalyje apžvelgiama pasakojamosios istorijos naudojimo istorija, supažindinama su tokios istorijos naudojimo tiriant ir rašant pagrindiniais įgūdžiais, su būdais pasiekti geriausių rezultatų ir su tokios istorijos ribomis.

Short course annotation in English (up to 500 characters)

This course enables students to grasp the purpose, task and methods of press journalism and to conduct interviews as well as to write and edit original news items, reports, features, analyses and commentaries. On finishing this course students should be able to write well-crafted journalistic pieces and to edit work done by others. Having introduced students to newspaper editing, the course prepares them to deal with the challenges and opportunities they will face in the newsroom today. In the second part of the course, an overview of the use of oral history is provided. Students will learn the basic skills of using oral history in research and writing, how to achieve the outcomes, as well as deal with the limitations and constraints.

Prerequisites for entering the course

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Course aim

The aim of this course is to enable students (1) to grasp the purpose, task and methods of press journalism and how these relate to those of literature, historiography and social science, (2) to conduct interviews as well as to write and edit original news items, reports, features, analyses and commentaries, (3) to effectively use oral history tools in journalism research and writing.

Links between study program outcomes, course outcomes and criteria of learning achievement evaluation

Study program outcomes	Course outcomes	Criteria of learning achievement evaluation
4.2. To apply techniques and methods of gathering, selecting, evaluating, writing and editing news, while using different types and sources of information, given the media users and different channels.	Grasping the importance, and differentiating between different types, of good lead.	Describing different types of good story lead.
	Understanding different ways of classifying leads.	Defining different classifications of good lead.
	Understanding the structure of (and difference between) a news report (shorter), a feature story (longer), a news analysis, and a commentary.	Being able to recognize outstanding (and to critique flawed) news reports, feature stories, interviews, news analyses, and commentaries—as well as to produce decent examples of each type of item oneself.
2.1. To work with various information sources, identify news values, do interviews, prepare reports, analyze, summarize, raise good problem questions.	Being aware of the history of oral history as a tool in journalism and research.	Explaining the history of oral history as a tool in journalism and research, its influence on historiography.
	Identifying oral history as a tool in journalism research and writing.	Being aware of restraints and limitations in oral history as a tool of journalism.
	Using oral history in journalism research and writing.	Setting up an oral history project and conducting interviews.

Link between course outcomes and content

Course outcomes	Content (topics)
Grasping the importance, and differentiating between different types, of a good lead.	1. Classifying, and studying examples of, effective leads.
	2. The importance and nature of a lead in terms of what comes after it: writing an effective news story.
Understanding different ways of classifying leads.	3. Leads differentiated according to form.
	4. Leads differentiated according to news value emphasized.
Understanding the structure of (and difference between) a news report (shorter), a feature story (longer), a news analysis, and a commentary.	5. The inverted pyramid, the linked boxes, the hourglass, the chronological narrative, the historical narrative.
Being aware of the history of oral history as a tool in journalism and research.	6. History and oral history.
	7. The contribution of oral history to investigative journalism.
Identifying oral history as a tool in journalism research and writing.	8. Setting up an oral history project.
	9. Conducting interviews.
	10. Using oral history in research and writing: assets and limitations.
	11. Preserving oral history.
	12. Therapeutic use of oral history.
	13. Restraints and limitations in oral history as a tool of journalism.
Using oral history in journalism research and writing.	14. A topic of the student's own choice.
	15. Final discussion.

Study (teaching and learning) methods

Lecturing, consultations, group discussions, paper writing, conducting interviews.

Methods of learning achievement assessment

Reading short paper assignments, observation of discussions, reading interview reports.

Distribution of workload for students (contact and independent work hours)

Lectures – 30 hrs., practical seminars – 15 hrs., group work – 15 hrs., homework – 50 hrs., individual independent work – 50 hrs. Total: 160 hrs.

Structure of cumulative score and value of its constituent parts

Papers – 25%, midterm exam – 25%, exam – 50% of final grade.

Recommended reference materials

Recommended reference materials						
No.	Publication year	Authors of publication and title	Publishing house	Number of copies in		
				University library	Self-study rooms	Other libraries
Basic materials						
1.	2010	Abrams, L. <i>Oral History Theory.</i>	Routledge	1	1	-
2.	2007	Brooks, B. et als. <i>News Reporting and Writing.</i>	Bedford	1	1	-
3.	2006	Kolodzy, J. <i>Convergence Journalism: Writing and Reporting across the News Media.</i>	Rowman & Littlefield	2	1	-
4.	2010	Perks, R.; Thomson, A. <i>The Oral History Reader.</i>	Routledge	4	1	-
5.	2009	Rich, C. <i>Writing and Reporting News: A Coaching Method.</i>	Wadsworth Publishing	1	1	-
6.	2003	Ritchie, D.A. <i>Doing Oral History.</i>	Oxford University Press	1	1	-
7.	2006	Sissons, H. <i>Practical Journalism.</i>	Sage	1	1	-
Supplementary materials						
8.	1997	Dennis, E.E., Merrill, J.C.	Vilnius			

		<i>Pokalbiai apie žurnalistiką (Discussions on Journalism).</i>	University	
9.	1998	Fink C. <i>Introduction to Professional Newswriting.</i>	Longman Publishers	
10.	2000	Keliuotis J. <i>Žurnalistikos paskaitos (Journalism Readings).</i>	VMU Press	
11.	1988	Thompson, P. <i>The Voice of the Past.</i>	Oxford University Press	

Course program designed by

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