

Journalistic Ethics (K000110)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits 7.0 Study time 210 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

Offering	Language	Teaching Method	Hours
A (semester 1)	Dutch	self-reliant study activities	5.0 h
		group work	12.5 h
		microteaching	7.5 h
		lecture	20.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Communication Science (main subject Journalism Studies)	7	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Journalism ethics, self-regulation, professional ethics, responsibility of media and journalism, journalistic methods of news gathering and news presentation, the Council for Journalism.

Position of the course

Master of Arts in the Communication Sciences, Main Subject: Journalism/Journalism Studies.

This course mainly links up with the educational component 'Media Law' (2BA Communication Sciences), as well as partially with the educational component 'Copyright Law' (3BA Communication Sciences). There is complementarity with the course 'Media and Ethics' (3BA Communication Sciences).

The goal is to familiarize students with, create awareness and critical reflection about the principles regarding journalistic ethics, social responsibility of media and applications of professional ethics of media and journalism.

Apart from an introduction to and analysis of issues, applications and developments with respect to journalistic ethics, this educational component aims to develop a thorough understanding amongst the students of the relationship between law and journalism ethics and to familiarize them with the characteristics, issues and developments concerning self-regulation in the sector of the media and journalism.

Contents

- Positioning journalism ethics in a social perspective and in relation to developments in the sector of media and journalism.
- Overview of the main applications and problems with respect to journalism ethics.
- Study and analysis of the main sources (national and international codes) of journalistic ethics.
- Study and analysis of the organization of self-regulation in the sector of the media and journalism, esp. the Council for Journalism.
- Case studies, applications and key issues with respect to journalism ethics and journalistic practices of news gathering, news selection and presentation.

Initial competences

Academic level of thinking and working, demonstrated by having successfully completed a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Sciences or to have acquired the competences targeted in this study program in another way, notably through having successfully taken the switch or preparatory course program for the Master of Arts in Communication Sciences. This educational component is ineligible for serving as a separate educational component or as an optional course, unless it is explicitly mentioned as a possible optional course in another study or degree program.

Final competences

- 1 Thorough knowledge and critical analysis of applications and developments with respect to journalism ethics from the perspective of communication sciences.
- 2 Thorough understanding of and critical reflection on the structures and functioning of the media and the position of the journalist from the perspective of journalistic practices and professional ethics.
- 3 Thorough understanding of the normative framework of journalistic ethics, including of the relation to law, professional ethics and self-regulation.
- 4 Thorough understanding and critical analysis of the developments, characteristics and implications of journalistic professional ethics.
- 5 Critical assessment and use of sources and literature in relation to current issues or developments with respect to journalistic practices and journalistic ethics.
- 6 To form a sound opinion on concrete applications and current developments regarding journalism ethics.
- 7 To produce a well-structured quality report and a journalistic article critically reflecting on a current application or development regarding journalism ethics.
- 8 To give a presentation in a professional way of a report that has been prepared within a team, analysing an actual application or development with respect to journalism ethics.
- 9 Thorough understanding and active awareness of the principles, codes and deliberation frameworks with respect to socially responsible and professional ethical conduct in journalism.
- 10 To recognize and analyse issues of journalism ethics in an independent and critical-analytical manner.
- 11 To show flexibility, capacity for adaptation and creativity in fulfilling tasks and assignments.
- 12 Thorough understanding of the (journalistic) freedom of expression and of the social responsibilities of the journalist in relation to economic, social, cultural, political and technological developments.
- 13 To have a critical-ethical attitude, a sense of journalistic deontology and social responsibility.
- 14 To testify to a sense of responsibility in practicing journalism, with thorough understanding of developments regarding globalisation and with respect to diversity and pluralism.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture, microteaching, self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Introductory interactive lectures, with analyses of numerous illustrations and key issues of journalism ethics
- Guest lectures by, among others, journalists, editor-in-chief, staff member of the Flemish Association of Professional Journalists (VVJ), of the Council for Journalism (chairman or secretary-general/ombudsman), of the Flemish Association of Investigative Journalism/Fonds Pascal Decroos
- Presentation of papers as reporting on group assignments, with discussion and feedback
- Independent paper/project (group assignment, individual paper and journalistic article)
- Media tests (actual knowledge and critical analysis of actual applications and developments in respect to journalistic ethics)

Learning materials and price

Cost: 25.0 EUR

- Reader on journalistic deontology, annually updated, in Dutch, available at the start of the academic year.
- Papers made by the students (included presentations group work).
- Documentation made available or discussed in guest lectures and seminars.
- Documentation source: Wetboek Media en Journalistiek, E. Brewaeyts, F. Voets en D. Voorhoof (eds.), Kluwer. Regularly updated version, available during the academic year.
- Additional documentation (legislation, links, recent publications, news) available through Minerva and www.rvdj.be

References

- The journals Auteurs & Media; Mediaforum, Tijdschrift voor Media- en Communicatierecht
- AM/Informatierecht; Communications Law; Iris, Legal Observations of the European Audiovisual Observatory.
- Journals on Journalism Studies and media ethics or journalism ethics available at the department library Communication Sciences.
- Websites: www.journalist.be - www.rvdj.be - www.denieuwereporter.nl - www.rvdj.nl and <http://inform.wordpress.com/> (The International Forum for Responsible Media Blog)

Course content-related study coaching

- Support through Minerva (lectures schemes, additional documentation, links, FAQ, e-mail).
- Regular office hours for meeting with students during lecturing periods, as announced by the beginning of the academic year on Minerva and on www.psw.ugent.be/dv (contact).
- Support, assistance and feedback is also given by a (senior) professional journalist with expertise on journalism, law and professional ethics.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Participation, assignment, report

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Evaluation of independent work:

- The editing and presenting of a paper as a group assignment on an actual issue or development with respect to journalistic practices and journalism ethics.
- The editing of an individual paper about a current application concerning journalism ethics.
- A journalistic article, with application of and reflection upon issue or application of journalism ethics.
- Media tests (actual knowledge and critical analysis of actual applications and developments in respect to journalistic ethics)

Oral examination:

To give evidence of a critical view about media, society and journalism and to show awareness of the social relevance of journalism and information, including ethical and normative aspects.

Both the oral exam as the permanent assessments are formatted and organised in order to evaluate the targeted final competences.

Calculation of the examination mark

Combination of periodic and continuous assessment:

- 50 % continuous
- 50 % periodic

Continuous: paper (group assignment), independent project/paper; participation during seminars and media tests (ready knowledge of current applications of journalism ethics)

Periodic: oral exam with written preparation (50%).

Students cannot elude continuous assessment.

Facilities for Working Students

Contact with lecturer