

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS

## *Journalism and Society: Power and Politics in Britain*

### JOUR-UA 9503

NYU London: Fall 2022

#### **Instructor Information**

- Owen Bennett-Jones

#### **Instruction Mode: In-person**

#### **Course Details**

- Monday 13 00 - 15:45
- Location: 106

#### **Course Description**

An introduction to media in the UK including the history of the press, media law, and the political and social context in which British media operate. We will look at the role of the BBC and analyse how its output is determined by its funding arrangements. Using examples from media outlets, the course will also cover ethical issues such as deciding whether or not to break the law in search of the truth, the sanitization of violent images and the key journalistic principles of objectivity and impartiality. We will examine what journalists might mean by the “public interest”.

The impact of social media and the role and responsibilities of the “citizen journalist” will be examined as will the growing challenges facing the media industry – from fake news to falling revenues.

#### **Course Objectives**

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- To understand the British media landscape in its print broadcast and digital forms.
- To write essays that show an understanding of the Britain media and articles that show a capacity to write for a journalistic outlet.
- To think about some of the current trends in the news media in the UK and the world more generally, including the use of narratives and counternarratives, fake news Identify and evaluate the dominant forces in British politics and society, and how they are articulated by the media.
- To understand and consider how the British media interacts with politics and issues such as Brexit.
- To analyse and understand differences between TV and print media in the US an UK.

## Assessment Components

Assignments / Activities	Description of Assignment	% of Final Grade	Due
Essay 1		30%	
Op Ed		30%	
Final essay		40%	

## Assessment Expectations

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Description
<b>A-range</b>	A = 93-100% A- = 90-92%	Show a mastery and an easy command of material related to the topic from your own research (75%) Write to a standard that could be used in the national press (25%)
<b>B-range</b>	B+ = 87-89% B = 84-86% B- = 80-83%	Show a general understanding of the topic as a whole and draw on material from your own

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Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Description
		research (75%) Write clearly so that the meaning is easy to understand and with no spelling and grammatical errors (25%)
<b>C-range</b>	C+ = 77-79% C = 74-76% C- = 70-73%	Show a general understanding of the topic as a whole (75%) Write adequately with no spelling and grammatical errors (25%)
<b>D-range</b>	D+ = 67-69% D = 65-66%	Show an understanding of some aspects of the topic (75%) Write with some spelling and grammatical errors (25%)
<b>F</b>	F = below 65%	Show little understanding of the topic (75%) Write with many spelling and grammatical errors (25%)

## Course Materials

### Required Text(s) & Materials

Piers Morgan, *The Insider: Private Diaries of a Scandalous Decade*, Ebury Press; New edition (8 Sept. 2005) You will need to read this book for the final essay

*Can't Afford to Tell the Truth*, Owen Bennett-Jones, London Review of Books, Vol 40, No 24, 20 December 2018 (available online)

You will be expected to become a regular consumer of British print, online and broadcast media, including the papers, TV and radio. You will need to read a mix of broadsheet and tabloid papers each week, at least occasionally watch flagship news programs on Channel 4 and the BBC. Please listen, at least twice a week, to the Today programme on BBC Radio 4, broadcast from 6am-9am, but available afterwards on iPlayer.

### Optional Text(s) & Materials

*The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, Kim Barker, Doubleday (22 Mar. 2011)

#### Resources

- Access your course materials: [Brightspace](#)

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- NYU London and Living in London Info: [LDN](#)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: [Bobst Library](#)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: [NYU Writing Center](#) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: [IT Help Desk](#)

## Course Schedule

### Topics & Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 5 Sept	Intro and British history		
Session 2 12 Sept	British Media landscape Cultural differences	<i>Can't Afford to Tell the Truth</i> , Owen Bennett-Jones, London Review of Books, Vol 40, No 24, 20 December 2018 (available online)	
Session 3 19 Sept	Media Regulation in US and UK	Look up roles of FCC and OFCOM online	
Session 4 26 Sep	Narratives, balance and the law		
Session 5 3 Oct	Fleet street tour		"In the UK newspapers are controversial and TV is staid. In the US it's the other way round. Why?" 1500 words due 2 Oct 22 00
Session 6 10 Oct	Brexit and British media		
Session 7 <b>14 Oct TBC</b>	Ukraine and fake news		
Session 8 17 Oct	British media and the royals		Op Ed piece on an assigned topic which will be in the news at

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Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
			the time of writing. 800 words due 16 Oct 22 00
Session 9 31 Oct	Investigative journalism	Listen to “The Assassination” podcast	
Session 10 7 Nov	Harlesden visit	Harlesden Mutual Aid online materials and articles	
Session 11 14 Nov	War reporting and violence		
Session 12 21 Nov	US and UK cultural differences and the media		
Session 13 28 Nov	Interviewing		
Session 14 5 Dec	The Debate		
Final Assessment 12 Dec		Piers Morgan, The Insider: Private Diaries of a Scandalous Decade, Ebury Press; New edition (8 Sept. 2005)	Final essay due 22 00 on 11 Dec

## Course Policies

### Classroom Etiquette

[Enter classroom etiquette as applicable; if, for example, it is not permitted to use laptops for note taking, please add the following clause: “Exceptions will be made for students with academic accommodations from the Moses Center.” You may also want to tell your students if and how they should signal to you that they would like to speak.]

### Final exams

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the London Academics team

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(nyul.academics@nyu.edu). Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

## Academic Honesty, Plagiarism and Late Work

Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the [University and school policies](#). You can find details on these topics and more on this section of our NYUL website (<https://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html>) and on the Policies and Procedures section of the NYU website for students studying away at global sites (<https://www.nyu.edu/academics/studying-abroad/upperclassmen-semester-academic-year-study-away/academic-resources/policies-and-procedures.html>).

## Attendance

Key information on NYU London's absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found on our [website](#) (<http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html>)

**To ensure the integrity of the academic experience, class attendance is required and expected promptly when class begins.** These rules apply to class excursions and activities as well.

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations, but must follow NYU London's absence reporting procedure. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

## Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

## Inclusivity Policies and Priorities

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

## Pronouns and Name Pronunciation (Albert)

You can edit your pronoun and name pronunciation information on your Albert account, making it visible for faculty and staff. Information on how to do this can be found on the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation web page](#).

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## **Bias Response**

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community. For more information, including how to report an incident, visit the [Bias Response Line website](#).

## **Your Lecturer**

The course will be taught by award-winning journalist [Owen Bennett-Jones](#), former host of BBC radio's Newshour and former BBC correspondent in Bucharest, Geneva, Islamabad, Hanoi and Beirut. Owen is the author of two books on Pakistan published by Yale University Press and has made a No 1 ranked podcast.