

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 36638
Name: Crisis journalism
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1334 - Degree in Journalism	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	3	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1334 - Degree in Journalism	Periodismo especializado	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

BLASCO CHAFER MARIA REMEI

SUMMARY

Crisis journalism is a compulsory module subject that addresses the crucial role of communication in the management of different types of crises, whether systemic or arising from an emergency or breaking news. Based on critical analysis, the course aims to provide students with the necessary tools to identify and understand the essential approaches, processes, and methods in the management of crisis and emergency communication, as well as to report on different crisis situations with solvency and respecting the ethical principles of the profession. Crisis journalism has a special focus on crises caused by wars and climate change, with the aim of improving the media approach and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030 promoted by the United Nations, specifically SDG 5, SDG 13, and SDG 16.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE**

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS



It is advisable for students to be familiar with the concept of crisis and the different approaches taken by the media in their coverage. Crises, regardless of the category to which they belong, are a central part of the media diet and students should be informed about their development.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to reasonably propose ideas from the basics of rhetoric, as well as to communicate through the techniques of persuasion.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have an understanding of the data and mathematical operations performed, with some of them commonly used in the media. Students must know how to use data and statistics in a correct and understandable way for global dissemination.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Students should be able to obtain and select relevant information and sources in order to solve problems and elaborate on strategies.

Students should be able to recover, organize, analyse and process information and communication with the purpose of private or collective uses through various media and supports or in the creation of productions of any kind.

Students should be able to search for, select, read, interpret and analyse both written and audiovisual texts and documents (analytically, synthetically and critically).

Students should be able to work as a team, communicate their own ideas and integrate themselves into group projects aimed at achieving results.

Students should have the capacity and creativity necessary to take expressive and thematic risks within the scope and timeframes of communicative production, applying well-founded solutions and perspectives to the development of projects.

Students should show solidarity with people across the planet, as well as knowledge of the main cultural currents in relation to individual and collective values and respect for human life.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



The course covers the following topics:

1. Concept of crisis and its characteristics

1.1 Introduction to crisis journalism

A theoretical approach to the concept of crisis journalism and its distinctions from other journalistic types.

- 1.1.1 Concept and nature of crisis journalism
- 1.1.2 Evolution and relevance in today's world
- 1.1.3 Differences from other journalism types

2. Crisis journalism versus crisis communication

All institutions and organizations affected by a crisis rely on communication. The information they provide and how they provide it shapes public perception. Media outlets must engage with these communication teams collaboratively, while maintaining their watchdog function.

- 2.1 Principles and strategies of crisis communication
- 2.2 Channels and media in crisis situations
- 2.3 The journalist's role in crisis communication

3. Types of crises and conflicts and how to manage them

3.1 Management of institutional and political crises

Students analyze real cases from both the communication team and media coverage perspectives.

- 3.1.1 Nature and types of institutional and political crises
- 3.1.2 The journalist's role in managing these crises
- 3.1.3 Analysis of media coverage

3.2 Management of crises stemming from natural disasters or emergencies

These require specific routines due to the stakes being human lives. Institutions and media must prioritize public safety.

- 3.2.1 Types: natural, health-related, technological
- 3.2.2 The role of journalism
- 3.2.3 Breaking news protocols
- 3.2.4 Media coverage analysis

3.3 Crises arising from conflicts or wars

Journalists must rise above propaganda, reporting with honesty and a human and gender-sensitive perspective.

- 3.3.1 Conflict journalism
- 3.3.2 Routines and protocols
- 3.3.3 Human and gender perspective

4. Reporting on a real crisis and strategic principles

- 4.1 Journalistic report project
- 4.2 Topic focus
- 4.3 Sources and methodology



4.4 Report execution (print or radio format)

Expected learning outcomes:

- Develop management of public security policies, from definition to implementation, under a pluralistic management model, emphasizing argumentation in crisis contexts.
- Understand the interests of diverse actors involved in crisis journalism and learn the communication production dynamics in emergency situations.
- Critically analyze the elements and communication strategies used in media coverage of environmental, political, social, and health crises and catastrophes.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	45,00
Total hours	45,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	67,50
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	67,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology for *Crisis Journalism* will be balanced between a theoretical and a practical approach, each constituting 50% of the learning experience. The intention is to ensure that students acquire a solid theoretical understanding and apply it directly through practical activities. The specific methods to be employed are described here:

- Personalised tutorships
- Individual self-study and work
- Group self-study and work



- Theoretical classes (lectures or expository classes with student presentations)
- Practical classes
- Discussion classes

EVALUATION

The general grading system will follow the regulations of the Universitat de València approved by the Governing Council on May 30th, 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

The evaluation of the course is divided into a written exam on theoretical knowledge and the completion of practical assignments, including analysis and debate of media coverage and communication strategies, as well as the journalistic coverage of a real crisis in the form of a report.

First call

- 30% of the grade: Theoretical exam covering course content, including questions based on the analysis and debate sessions.
- 60% of the grade: Evaluation of the practical activities carried out during the course, including both individual tasks and group work. The main practical assignment will be the group production of a report on a real crisis, designed for either a written medium or radio. Group projects cannot be resubmitted in recovery sessions.
- 10% of the grade: Evaluation of the student's active participation in class debates and analysis.

Second call

- 30% of the grade: Theoretical exam covering course content, including questions based on the analysis and debate sessions.
- 60% of the grade: Evaluation of practical activities completed during the course. The main practical assignment will be the report on a real crisis, completed in groups for a written medium or radio.

To pass the course, both components must be passed separately (5 out of 10 in each).

For the second call, students must submit and pass the practical work in advance to sit the exam. If any practical activities cannot be replicated due to their format, they will be replaced by alternative assignments



determined by the instructor.

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Academic honesty is essential in academic communities and a key condition for the fair evaluation of student work. All submitted assignments must be original. No assignments involving fraudulent collaboration or created with the aid of artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT or similar tools) will be accepted, unless their use is explicitly part of the course content and has been authorized by the instructor.

If plagiarism is detected in any evaluation task, the work may be given a score of zero and result in the failure of the exam session, without prejudice to any disciplinary proceedings that may be initiated and, if applicable, the penalties foreseen by current legislation.

The following will also be considered serious offences, which may lead to immediate failure of the exam session: copying or allowing the copying of assignments among students; irregular access to or early appropriation of an exam; facilitating or attempting to appropriate, alter, or destroy the content or results of an evaluable activity; and impersonation during exams. Any such serious infractions must be reported by the instructor to the Degree Coordinator.

Assignments or exams that contain spelling mistakes, syntactic errors, or poor coherence and structure will be penalised and may result in failing the respective assessment.

Code of conduct

The main goal of this course is to provide students with key skills in journalism and crisis communication. Therefore, we believe that the classroom, its faculty, and students must uphold inclusive values and behaviours. We kindly ask that all participants help ensure that the classroom remains a safe and welcoming space for everyone, regardless of nationality, gender identity or expression, age, appearance, functional diversity, marital status, socioeconomic background, or religion (or lack thereof). Respect for the classroom environment is essential in every direction.

REFERENCES

Basics

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Kriesberg, L., & Dayton, W. B. (2012). *Constructive conflicts: From escalation to resolution*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Complementary

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