



Lead City University, Ibadan
Faculty of Environmental, Management and Social Sciences
Department of Mass Communication

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: CMT 219

Course Title: Specialized Reporting

No. of Units: 2

Status: Compulsory

LECTURERS' DETAILS

Name: Dr. L.A Abioye

Qualifications: B.A., M.Ed. MBA. PhD

Phone: 08023318934

Email: gboyegaabioye@yahoo.com

Area of Specialization: Development Communication and Public Relations

Name: Mr. J. Ogunbitan

Qualifications: B.Sc., M.Sc in view

Phone: 08063132798

Email: joshwithchrist@gmail.com

Area of Specialization: News Media and Reporting

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course has been designed to expose students to the professional techniques of reporting specialized subjects such as agriculture, politics, medicine, business, labour, the courts, arts and entertainment, education and so on. There has been the debate that it is better to have a generalist on the staff of a media organization than a specialist. This course tends to agree with the notion that a reporter should be able to report on almost any subject. This course will expose the students to many fields and give them a better leverage when they eventually become professional journalists. They would work in the courts, on the sport beat, religion beat, in hospitals and even on the farm to bring reports to their readers/viewers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to:

- Understand the terrains of specialized reporting.
- Be able to write articles that are publishable in the national dailies on those specialized subjects.
- Efforts will be made to encourage them to actually publish their articles in the national dailies.

ASSESSMENT

Class Attendance	5 marks
Test (s) and Assignments	25marks
Examination	70 marks
Total	100 marks

LECTURE PLAN

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction Definitions: Reporting and specialized / beat reporting Objectives of specialized reporting Feature writing
Week 2	Reporting health Definition Sources of health news
Week 3	Reporting Human rights Definition The need for reporting human rights Sources of human rights stories Techniques for reporting human rights
Week 4	Reporting science and technology The science beat and the science reporter Relevance of science and technology reporting Sourcing science and technology information Science terminologies
Week 5	Reporting agriculture Definition Mass media and agriculture Sources of agricultural stories Issues in reporting agriculture
Week 6	Reporting business What is business reporting? Importance of business reporting Sources of business news Guidelines for reporting business
Week 7	Reporting sports What is sport reporting? Importance of sports reporting Sources of sports stories Rules for reporting sports
Week 8	Reporting education The education beat Relevance of education reporting Sources of stories on education
Week 9	Arts and entertainment reporting The arts and entertainment beat (music, movies, arts, etc) Importance

	Challenges in reporting arts and entertainment
Week 10	Reporting religion Definition What to look out for in reporting religion Sources of stories on religion Technique for reporting religion
Week 11	Reporting the courts/ Revision
Week 12	Examination

READING LIST

- Nwabueze, C. (2009). Reporting: Principles, Approaches and special beats. Owerri: Top Shelve Publishers
- Alao, D. (2000). Specialized reporting. Lagos: Pacific Holding
- Duyile, D. (2006). Political and parliamentary reporting for journalists. Ondo: The African Drum
- Omojuyigbe, D. (2004). The press and language. Lagos: New Deo Communications

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. Define specialized reporting, laying emphasis on the objectives and challenges of specialized reporting.
2. (a) Explain the essential features of health reporting
(b) Discuss the significance of health reporting and discuss the qualities required of a good health reporter.
3. Discuss the term 'human rights', highlighting the need and the sources of human rights news.
4. Discuss the importance of science and technology reporting, the sources of science news and why a science reporter must understand scientific terminologies.
5. Discuss extensively some general steps a reporter can take for the effective coverage of a beat. Mention and explain 10 of such steps.
6. Defamation of character, sedition and contempt of court are serious issues that may hinder the reporter from effective reporting of the court. How can he succeed in reporting the law court?
7. Every one may watch sports but its not everyone who can be a sports reporter. Why?
8. Discuss the education beat stating its relevance and highlighting sources of education news.
9. What are the challenges that a reporter can face while trying to report arts and entertainment?
10. The agricultural reporter in Nigeria is faced with the responsibilities of building a strong viable agricultural sector. Critically examine the role of the agriculture reporter in the society.
11. What are the challenges involved in reporting religion in Nigeria. How can these challenges be mitigated?
12. Discuss the challenges that reporting a specialized beat can present to the reporter?