

## **Investigative Journalism Programme 2016**

### **Investigative Journalism (A) for MA and Certificate Students**

**Convenor: Jeff Kelly Lowenstein, Taco Kuiper Visiting Fellow in Investigative Journalism, [jkellylowenstein@gmail.com](mailto:jkellylowenstein@gmail.com).**

**Investigative Journalism (A) is intended to equip a journalist with a knowledge of investigative journalism in South Africa and the world, a knowledge of related ethical issues and a range of investigative skills. It will provide context and practical skills applied in a project for those wishing to develop an investigative perspective.**

#### **Class times**

**This class will meet on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm, from 18 May 2016. Venue: Journalism Department, 12<sup>th</sup> floor seminar room.**

#### **Requirements**

**To complete the course, students need to fulfill the following requirements in attendance, seminar preparation, essay and portfolio.**

#### **Attendance**

**Students are required to attend all weekly seminars and sign the register. Students who cannot attend a seminar for reasons beyond their control must make this known in advance of the class and discuss with the tutor how to make up the work. Students missing more than two classes will not be allowed to complete the course.**

#### **Seminar preparation**

**Each student will prepare and present one seminar (during weeks 3 – 7) about investigative journalism in South Africa or the world, from a list of possible topics (20% of the mark). *(List of topics will be sent when you sign up for the course.)***

#### **Essay**

**Each student will write an essay on a question about the ethics of investigative journalism that has emerged during the course of the semester, to be completed by Monday 18 July (30% of the mark). *(List of topics will be sent when you sign up for the course.)***

#### **Assignments/Portfolio**

**We will go through the stages of a semester-long project about the South African Lottery. During the course, a number of practical assignments will make up a portfolio. This will include the following:**

- A basic database of your own creation – using either downloaded information or survey results
- Data analysis, using Excel, to form the basis of possible stories – with outline pitch for story
- A first and final draft of a story
- A graphic element based on your analysis
- An access to information (PAIA) request plus related research leading to the request
- A company search or individual profile

**The portfolio should be completed by the end of the third week in July (deadline for delivery is Wednesday 27 July). There will be specific deadlines along the way. (50% of the mark)**

## **Communication**

**Notices, changes to seminars or readings, additional material, key documents, etc are all posted on Basecamp (<https://witsjournalism.grouphub.com/login>) on a regular basis. Students are required to visit the site regularly to check for information on the course.**

### **Course outline**

#### **Weeks 1**

**Week 1: Wednesday, May 18, 4pm**

**An introduction to South Africa's history of investigative journalism**

**Anton Harber**

**Guidelines for the course and investigative journalism in the world.**

**Explanation of investigative process.**

**Jeff Kelly Lowenstein**

**Review previous coverage of South African Lottery and other lotteries.**

**Week 2: Monday 23 May**

**Ethical issues in investigative journalism**

**Franz Kruger**

**Wednesday 25 May**

**Data journalism – finding the story in the figures**

**Define story angle for project.**

**Week 3: Wednesday 1 June**

**Student presentation**

**Field Reporting**

**Week 4: Wednesday 8 June**  
**Student presentation, plus invited speaker tbc**  
**First Draft Due**

**Week 5: Wednesday 15 June**  
**Student presentation, plus invited speaker tbc**  
**First Draft of Graphics, Map**

**Week 6: Wednesday 22 June**  
**Student presentation**  
**Second Draft of Story Due.**

**Week 7: Wednesday 29 June**  
**Student presentation**  
**Multi-media Piece Due**

**Week 8: Wednesday, July 6**  
**Start Fact Checking Process**

**Week 9: Wednesday, July 13**  
**Continue Fact Checking**

**Week 10: Monday, July 18**  
**Polish Work, Prepare Presentations**

**Wednesday, July 20**  
**Ethics Essay Due**

**Week 11: Wednesday, July 27**  
**Final Presentations**