# Theories and Techniques of Journalist Language

## Prof. Roberto Fiori; Prof. Sandro Neri

1st Semester: *Prof Roberto Fiori*

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of forms of entertainment in late mediaeval times and related historical and historiographic issues. Theoretical study will be backed up by practical exercises and references to the history of journalism, vital for understanding the product, market and evolution in writing forms and genres.

By the end of the course, students will be confident and competent in approaching the multifaceted world of journalism today. They will understand the dynamics regulating information in the age of the Internet and social media, and be able to write a text in accordance with the rules of journalistic writing.

***COURSE CONTENT***

During the first semester attention will focus on "tangible" journalism. Students will look at theoretical issues and the rules of journalism at a time of major changes and multimedia convergences. Students will examine the structure and workings of a newspaper, reflecting on the various languages used for printed matter with special reference to writing techniques and the profession of journalism.

*Communication, information and journalism*

Differences, similarities, dynamics. Changes and current trends.

*Journalism and forms of journalism*

Crossmediality, podcasting, blogging and social network.

*Information and its codes*

News and sources. Objectivity, disinformation and false scoops.

*The journalist’s work*

Editorial activities, writing and desk work.

Hierarchies, organisation, schedules.

*Writing for others*

The article. Structure.

The rules of journalistic writing.

*Types and styles of information*

News. Current affairs.

Features.

Reports and inquiries.

Interviews and commentaries.

***READING LIST***

1. Barbano, *Manuale di giornalismo,* Laterza, 2012.
2. M. Mezza, *Giornalismi nella rete*, Donzelli, 2015.

One of the following:

Various authors, *Professione reporter.* *Il giornalismo d’inchiesta nell’Italia del dopoguerra,* Bur-Rizzoli, 2008.

J. Abramson, *Mercanti di verità. La grande guerra dell’informazione*, Sellerio, 2021.

F. Bolzetta – A. Romeo, *IIl giornalismo fra televisione e web*, Franco Angeli, 2019.

C. Bertoni, *Letteratura e giornalismo,* Carocci, 2009.

M. Candito, *I reporter di guerra.* Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2009.

F. De Bortoli, *Poteri forti (o quasi),* La nave di Teseo, 2017.

G. Ferretti-S. Guerriero, *Storia dell’informazione letteraria in Italia dalla terza pagina a internet.* *1925-2009,* Feltrinelli, 2010.

U. Lisieri, *News(paper) revolution.* *L’informazione online al tempo dei social network,* Lupetti, 2012.

D. Mazzocco, *Giornalismo online. Crossmedialità, blogging e social network*, Centro Documentazione Giornalistica, 2018.

D. Nalbone – A. Puliafito, *Slow Journalism. Chi ha ucciso il giornalismo?* Fandango Libri, 2019.

P. Pagliaro, *Punto. Fermiamo il declino dell’informazione,* Il Mulino, 2017.

E. Pedemonte, *Morte e resurrezione dei giornali.* *Chi li uccide, chi li salverà*, Garzanti, 2010.

M. Pratellesi, *New journalism.* *Dalla crisi della stampa al giornalismo di tutti,* Mondadori, 2013.

C. Sorrentino – S. Splendore, *Le vie del giornalismo,* Il Mulino, 2022.

G.Triani, *Giornalismo aumentato,* Franco Angeli, 2017.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of lectures with specific practical writing tests and the analysis of informative texts. There will also be lectures from guest speakers. During the course, students will read the main daily papers and carry out fieldwork.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be examined by means of an oral exam in which they must explain some of the themes explored on the course and in the texts on the reading list.

The exam is designed to assess:

a. quality of students’ participation in lectures and in the other educational activities;

b. their knowledge of the texts on the reading list;

c. their capacity for conceptually reformulating data;

d. their ability to critically approach the themes discussed and to understand their problematic nature.

e. accuracy and originality of their presentation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is a basic course, it has no particular prerequisites other than curiosity on the part of the students and a commitment to keeping up-to-date on events and opinions by following the newspapers and audio-visual and multimedia sources closely.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's Blackboard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

2nd semester: Prof. Sandro Neri

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The world of media and the journalistic profession are constantly and profoundly changing. The speed with which news travels today and the massive use of technologies risk breaking down the necessary boundaries between information and the free dissemination of simple opinions. At the risk of opening doors to fake news and disinformation. The course aims to provide students with the exact dynamics that regulate written journalism, in newspapers, magazines and online newspapers. In other words, teach them the rules of an appropriate journalistic language that must be adhered to, as well as the rules of ethics that distinguish the profession and ethics of a journalist. Students will also be taught the structure of newspapers, their evolution and the history of journalism and newspapers in Italy. In conclusion, they will learn the rudiments for undertaking this profession, knowing how to approach journalistic writing and editorial offices in the most appropriate way.

COURSE CONTENT

In the second semester, the focus will be on the basic historical aspects of Italian journalism and on the structure of the best-known newsrooms and magazines; in other words, on the analysis of a journalist's daily work, on the organisation and billing of newspapers, and on the differences between agency journalism, local journalism, economic journalism, and the coverage of sports and cultural events and shows. The focus will then move onto an analysis of the front page of a newspaper, as well as heading, and the rules that regulate professional ethics. The practical activities will focus on an analysis of writing techniques.

*- The journalist's work.* Information sources, what makes a news story, how it gets to the news rooms, and how it is processed.

*- Inside newspapers* How news rooms are structured, the organisation of work, the hierarchies, the differences between writing and desk research.

*- Inside the profession.* The different types of journalistic work, the rules of correct writing, professional ethics, the right to report and defamation.

*- Milestones in the history of journalism* The first Italian newspapers, newspapers in the post Second World war period, the most innovative experiences, the end of the RAI monopoly and the laws on radio and television broadcasting.

READING LIST

A. Barbano, *Manuale di giornalismo,* Laterza, 2012.

M. Partipilo, *Manuale di Deontologia del Giornalista,*  CDG Edizioni

M. Mezza, *Giornalismi nella rete*, Donzelli, 2015.

One text to be chosen from the following:

Vittorio emiliani, *Orfani e bastardi. Milano e l'Italia viste dal «Giorno»*, Donzelli 2009

Various Authors, *Professione reporter. Il giornalismo d’inchiesta nell’Italia del dopoguerra*, BUR Rizzoli, 2008.

J. Abramson, *Mercanti di verità. La grande guerra dell’informazione,*Sellerio, 2021.

C. Bertoni, *Letteratura e giornalismo,* Carocci, 2009.

F. Bolzetta – a. Romeo, *II giornalismo tra televisione e web,* Franco Angeli, 2019.

M. Candito, *I reporter di guerra*, Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2009.

G. Ferretti-s. Guerriero, *Storia dell’informazione letteraria in Italia dalla terza pagina a internet. 1925-2009,* Feltrinelli, 2010.

TEACHING METHOD

The course is divided into frontal lectures in the classroom with practical writing tests and the analysis of information texts. During the course, the main newspapers will be read and fieldwork proposed.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam takes the form of an oral interview in which students will be asked to illustrate some of the topics developed during lectures and in the texts indicated in the reading list. The interview aims to ascertain and evaluate: a. the quality of participation in lectures and other didactic activities; b. the level of in-depth analysis of the texts proposed in the reading list; c. the ability to conceptually reprocess the data; d. the presence of a general and problematic critical view of the topics discussed; and e. the accuracy and originality of the presentation.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Since this is a basic course, no specific prerequisites are required, but a curiosity and desire to stay updated on events and opinions through the frequent consumption of paper, audio-visual and multimedia media is called for. Should the health emergency continue, both the teaching activities and assessment forms, during and at the end of the course, will be ensured "remotely" via the University's Blacknoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform, and any other tools provided and communicated at the beginning of the course; this will ensure the full achievement of the course aims provided for in the curricula and, at the same time, the total safety of the students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.