



Universidad
de Navarra

Based on true events
Teaching guide 2025-26

INTRODUCTION

Course description: This course aims to delve into a phenomenon that has existed for decades but is currently on the rise: fictional works based on real events. Through case studies, debates, screenings of different productions, and practical exercises, students will be encouraged to reflect on the boundaries of fiction.

- **Degree:** Journalism | Global Journalism | Audiovisual Communication | Screen Studies
- **Module in the Degree Program:**
 - Journalism | Global Journalism - Module VI. Elective
 - Audiovisual Communication | Screen Studies - Module VII. Elective
- **Number of credits:** 3 ECTS
- **Year, semester:** Third and fourth, 1st semester
- **Type of course:** Optional
- **Instructors:** Lucía Gastón Lorente and Roncesvalles Labiano Juangarcía
- **Language:** English
- **Lecture Schedule:** Thursday 10.00-12.00, Room 9, School of Communication

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

JOURNALISM DEGREE

SKILLS

RA11 - That students know how to apply their knowledge to their work or profession in a professional way and possess the skills that are usually demonstrated through the preparation and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.

RA15 - To express oneself fluently and effectively in both oral and written communication, using the most appropriate linguistic and literary resources.

COMPETENCIES

RA25 - To devise, plan, and develop shared projects in the field of journalism

RA27 - To interpret and evaluate the recent historical evolution of the world and to understand its political, economic, social, and cultural parameters that have an impact on the good work of a communicator.

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION/SCREEN STUDIES DEGREE

KNOWLEDGE

RA2 - To understand and appreciate the impact of audiovisual communication in its multiple dimensions: social, cultural, historical, economic, business, legal, scientific, deontological, and technological.



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SKILLS

RA10 - That students know how to apply their knowledge to their work or profession in a professional way and possess the skills that are usually demonstrated through the preparation and defense of arguments and the resolution of problems within their area of study.

COMPETENCIES

RA22 - To devise, plan, and develop shared projects in the field of audiovisual communication

PROGRAM

1. Course Introduction: Key points to remember.
2. Unveiling the origins and evolution of docudrama and fiction based on true events.
3. Differences and similarities between documentary and fiction based on true events.
4. Understanding the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction.
5. The importance of adding fiction only when necessary.
6. The narrative: case study I
7. The character: case study II
8. Narrative analysis: case study III
9. The ethics of fiction based on true events
10. Legal challenges: the rights to honor and to privacy vs. the right to artistic freedom
11. Debate class
12. New job opportunities
13. Final presentations

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Theoretical and practical lessons (28 hours)

This course is organized into two-hour theoretical and practical sessions. These classes will primarily combine the case study methodology with practical exercises. Students will be encouraged to reflect on specific topics related to fictions based on true events through debates and analysis of specific texts or audiovisual products. In some cases, these will be worked on in class, but in others, students will be expected to have read or viewed them at home.

Autonomous work (44,5 hours)

These hours include the weekly time dedicated to homework (reading, viewing, or writing), as well as the time needed to carry out an individual analysis of a work of fiction based on real events and a final proposal, in pairs, of a fictional production based on a journalistic book.

Final presentations (2 hours)

Final presentations will be public during the theory class slot, April 11th from 12:00 to 14:00.

Tutorials (0,5 hours)

It is important for students to meet with the professor to plan and monitor their final project.



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ASSESSMENT

ORDINARY SESSION

The final evaluation grade will be the sum of the following activities:

- **30% Exams** = Narrative analysis (20%) + Oral exam (10%)
- **60% Tasks** = Practical exercises both in class and at home (30%) + Final project (30%)
- **10% Participation** = Taking part in the lectures, attending the workshops and giving feedback to your classmates in their presentations.

Maximum grade, 10; minimum to pass the class, 5.

The narrative analysis, the practical exercises and the final project will be evaluated separately. Passing the narrative analysis and the final project is required to pass the course.

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Students who do not pass the course in the ordinary session will have to an exam in the extraordinary session. The exam will consist of several short questions related to the content covered in class and in the course assignments. In this exam session, the exam result will be 100% of the course grade.

* Students with special learning needs

- Accommodation will be provided for students with special learning needs, either regarding the methodology and/or evaluation of the course, but they will be expected to fulfill all course objectives.

OFFICE HOURS

Dra. Lucía Gastón Lorente (lgaston@unav.es)

- Office 1591. Ismael Sánchez Bella building.
- Times and dates: Tuesdays, 11:00 to 13:00
- Also available for appointment by e-mail

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

The contents that you need to study in order to complete the assessed tasks successfully will be available as links, videos, audios and PDF documents in the Contents area of the subject's AulaVirtual ADI site.