

**TFP 505: Investigative Journalism**

**Department of Television, Film and Photography  
University of Dhaka**

TFP 505: Investigative Journalism

Credit: 4

Marks: 100

Course Instructor: Reffat Ferdous

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Class hour: Thursday, 9:00 am-12:00;

Consultation hour: 12:00-1.00 pm

**Course Objectives:** The goal of this course is to improve the student journalist's ability to thoroughly research, investigate, and report for television on a variety of topics, including politics, crime, the legal system, the environment, health, and business, as well as to be able to develop and test new ideas before presenting them in a straightforward, objective television story format that complies with the standards of accuracy and objectivity. After completion of the course students will have:

- Solid understanding of what investigative reporting is and how it differs from other types of reporting, and the role of an investigative reporter.
- Ability to generate story ideas for investigative and in-depth stories.
- Ability to write and present in-depth material in a compelling way, and
- Commitment to accuracy and fair play. Understanding of ethical issues involved in investigative reporting.

### Course Requirements

Attendance - 5%

Written Assignment- 10%

Mid Term/ Surprise Test- 15%

Practical Assignment with presentation- 20%

Final Exam – 50%

### Required texts:

1. Gains, William M. (1993); *Investigative Reporting for Print and Broadcast*; London: Burnham Inc. Pub
2. Metzler, Ken (1996); *Creative Interviewing: Writers Guide to Gathering Information by Asking Questions*; US: Allyn and Bacon
3. Mollenhoff, Clark R. (1981); *Investigative Reporting: From Court House to White House*; UK: Macmillan Pub
4. Sheehan, Paul V (1972); *Reporting Writing*; Ontario: Chilton Publication
5. Stewart, Charles J. & Cash, William B.(2013); *Interviewing: Principles and Practices*; UK: McGraw-Hill Education
6. Williams, Paul N. (1982); *Investigative Reporting and Editing*; UK: Prentice Hall
৭. রিয়াজ, আলী (১৯৯৪); *অনুসন্ধানী ও ব্যাখ্যামূলক রিপোর্টিং হ্যান্ডবুক*; ঢাকা: বাংলাদেশ সেন্টার ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট, জার্নালিজম এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন
৮. জাহাঙ্গীর, মুহাম্মদ, *সাংবাদিকতা (সম্পাদিত)*; ঢাকা: মাওলা ব্রাদার্স

## Weekly Schedule

### **Week One: Introduction to the Course**

1. Defining Investigative Journalism
2. Assignment Planning

Students have to design an assignment either individually or in a group (maximum 2 persons). Each person/group will work in the DU Television Studio for their assignment. At the end of the semester, each person/group will submit their work. Alongside, students must present their project ideas before starting final works.

### **Week Two: Techniques and Process of Investigative Reporting**

1. Investigative Reports for Electronic Media
  - Thinking about it In *Investigative Reporting and Editing*
  - The Investigative Journalist-Talent, Techniques In *Investigative Reporting*
2. Story Analysis

### **Week Three and Four: Ethics and the Use of public records for Investigative Reporting**

- The Use of Records and Procedures (in *Investigative Reporting*)
- Needles and Haystacks (in *Investigative Reporting and Editing*)
- Right to Information Act
- Ethical and Legal Consideration (in Reporting Writing)
- অনুসন্ধানী ও ব্যাখ্যামূলক রিপোর্টিং ও আইন (বই অনুসন্ধানী ও ব্যাখ্যামূলক রিপোর্টিং হ্যাণ্ডবুক)

### **Week Five: The Art of Interview for Broadcast Media**

- The Ten Stages of the Interview
  - The Broadcast Interview
  - Covering a Newsbeat
  - The Personality Questions
  - Ethics of the Interview
  - The Journalistic/Probing Interview in *Interviewing: Principles and Practices*
  - The Art of Interview in *Reporting Writing*
- } in *Creative Interviewing*

### **Week Six: Writing Investigative Report for Television**

- ▶ Story Analysis and writing investigative reports for Television.
  - Thinking about it.
  - Producing the Investigative Story
  - Illustrating an Investigative Story
  - The Investigative Journalist: Talent, Techniques in *Investigative Reporting*
- } in *Investigative Reporting and Editing*

### **Week Seven and Eight: Presentation on assignment**

- Presentation on assignment

**Week Nine to Twelve: Techniques of Investigative Reporting for different Newsbeats**

- Police, Crime and Investigative Reporting
- Court and Investigative Reporting
- Election and Investigative Reporting
- Parliament and Investigative Reporting
- Health and Investigative Reporting
- Environment and Investigative Reporting

Instructor will provide the necessary materials

**Week Thirteen: Practice of Investigative Journalism in Bangladesh**

Rahman, G. (2014). Investigative journalism in Bangladesh: Its growth and role in social responsibility. *DIU Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Volume 2

**Week Fourteen: Assignment Projection, Analysis and Wrap Up**