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| BA Journalism  ORIENTATION TIMETABLE | | |
| COURSE LEADER: JIM McClellan/HEAD OF SCHOOL: MICHAELA O’Brien | | |
| Congratulations on being accepted onto the BA (Hons) Journalism degree course. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you over the next few years and we will endeavour to ensure that your time with us will be creative, exciting and fulfilling.    On the attached pages you will find details of your time with us at the start of the year. During Orientation week we will go through the course programme with you in detail. We have arranged a number of activities to help you settle in and prepare for your time with us. This will include familiarising you with workspaces, who you will be working with and the campus and its community before you go on to start the formal, scheduled learning weeks.    We have also included a short list of books and other resources that will help you to get a good start in your studies pre-arrival, as well as a note on equipment and materials. If you are extra keen, don’t worry, there will be plenty more later!    If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below.    Best wishes and welcome to university life. We look forward to seeing you in September.    Kind regards    Jim McClellan  Course Leader, BA (Hons) Journalism  Assistant Head of School, Media and Communication  [J.Mcclellan@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Mcclellan@westminster.ac.uk) | | |
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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Monday 16 September 2019** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **14:00** | **Journalism Course Induction 1** | **LG.24 (Lecture Theatre 1) Harrow Campus HA1 3TP** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Tuesday 17 September 2019** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **10:00** | **Welcome Meeting** | **Auditorium** | | **11:15** | **Enrolment** | **Forum** | | **14.00** | **Meeting with Personal Tutors** | **NR2, Second Floor, J Block** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Wednesday 18 September 2019** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **11:00 – 16:00** | **Arrival Fair *(Optional event)*** | **Forum** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Thursday 19 September 2019** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **11.00** | **Group Outing, Central London** | **TBC** |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Friday 20 September 2019** | | | | **Time** | **Event** | **Location** | | **11.00 - 13.00** | **Journalism Course Induction 2** | **A1.04** | | | |
| **READING LIST**  The most important thing you can do before you arrive here is to consume a lot more journalism, in print, on TV, on radio and online. Try to read a range of news websites/apps – look at everything from The Guardian and The Independent to the Mail Online, the Huffington Post, Vice and Buzzfeed. Look at the big global news outlets. Think about how you use social media for consuming news and journalism; in particular think about the kinds of stories that appear in your news feeds and why.    Try to read traditional newspapers and their related websites/apps on a regular basis – not just the Metro and other free sheets but the ones you have to pay for. But don’t just look at the serious outlets – it’s important to be aware of how the tabloids work too. Listen to news on the radio – not just music. Try Radio One’s Newsbeat, Radio 4 and Five Live. Watch TV news – from standard bulletins on Sky and the BBC to more analytical programmes like Newsnight and C4 News. Watch long-form documentaries and read lots of magazines too.    Whatever you end up looking at, try to read, watch and listen in a critical way, like a professional, not like a regular consumer. If you find a piece of journalism you really like or find really powerful, think about why it works so well. Ask yourself what the journalist had to do to get the story. Look at the way the piece was constructed – think about the overall angle of the piece and how it comes through…    As for books – Andrew Marr’s ‘My Trade’ is a good place to start if you want to find out how traditional British journalists think, how they view the world and their place in it. Some of you may know Marr from his work on the BBC. This book is a bit old now – it was written over ten years ago. In it Marr looks at the history of journalism and the work he’s done for newspapers and the BBC. I think it remains a good introduction to the world of traditional journalism and how professional journalists see themselves.    Another good introductory read is James Ball’s ‘Post-Truth’. Ball is from a different journalistic generation to Andrew Marr. He’s written for both The Guardian and Buzzfeed and early in his career worked with Wikileaks. His book was one of three with the same title to come out last year – in it, Ball writes from the perspective of a working journalist about the challenges posed by social media and fake news. It’s up-to-date and very readable.    A good book to start with if you want a general introduction to some key journalistic skills is David Randall’s ‘The Universal Journalist’ (try to get the fifth edition, which is the latest). The book is a good mix of practical advice and more theoretical explorations of current media debates. The Journalism course at Westminster takes a very cross-platform approach – in particular we try to develop your online skills. Once you’re here, we will recommend some books in this area. For the moment, a good place starting point is Paul Bradshaw’s The Online Journalism Handbook (the second edition).    There are some excellent recent research reports online that can give you a more up-to-date perspective on online news. Have a look at the Tow Centre report, Friend and Foe: The Platform Press at the Heart of Journalism – you can read more about it and download a free pdf at:  <https://www.cjr.org/tow_center_reports/the-platform-press-at-the-heart-of-journalism.php>    In the same vein, The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism publishes useful annual surveys about the current state of digital news. You can download a free pdf of the latest edition Digital News Report 2019 by Nic Newman at: <http://www.digitalnewsreport.org/>    Whatever you read before you come to Westminster, make sure you do it with a more critical, reflective, professional eye. Even if you only read your favourite magazines and blogs – try to step back and think about how you would have written something similar. Try to start thinking like a journalist, like someone who doesn’t just consume media but creates it as well. | | |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - A NOTE ON EQUIPMENT All of the equipment you need on the course is available at the university – we use Macs on most of the modules on the Journalism course. As you’ll know if you’ve visited the university, we have lots of Macs in the various newsrooms we use. At various points in Year 1, you will use video cameras and audio recorders – you can borrow these from Media Stores as and when you need them.    So you don’t need to bring any equipment with you. That said, I imagine most of you will be bringing a laptop. If you are, you don’t have to have a Mac. PCs are fine for much of what you’ll have to do on the course. If you have a smartphone, it can help with some of the things we do on the course – but it certainly isn’t a requirement. | | |
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