



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2022-2023

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

News and Journalism

Course Code	S_NAJ
Credits	6.00
Period	P1
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	
Course Coordinator	dr. A.M.J. van Hoof
Examiner	dr. A. Casas Salleras
Teaching Staff	dr. M.G.M. Jansen, dr. A. Casas Salleras
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Study-group

Course Objective

Upon completion of this course, the student is able to ...

- describe and explain the developments in journalism (as an institution) in the modern democratic society;
- reproduce and apply different theoretical perspectives on selection and presentation of the news as an explanatory model of current news examples;
- explain how news influences attitudes of news consumers;
- describe the Dutch media environment in a comparative perspective;
- reflect critically on the (difficult) relationship between journalists, (organizational) sources and the public.

Course Content

This course is about understanding the significance and impact of journalism in society. Journalism is key for a well-functioning democratic society: It provides the public with information of general interest. The quality of the news, therefore, largely determines the quality of the public debate. The quality of the news depends of many factors, since it is not only about public information provision. News is also a commercial product that is produced in an almost industrial way and must be sold to news consumers. Who are those news consumers and how have news consumption patterns changed over the course of history? How do journalists select the relevant news events? How do they employ journalistic values such as objectivity, impartiality, professionalism, news values? How biased (fake?) is the news? To guarantee daily news, journalists highly depend on access to elite sources, but who has the real power? In short, in this course you learn to understand and analyze what news looks like, why it looks like this and how news consumers utilize news. Furthermore, we place the study of journalism in a historical and comparative context as well as address the challenges faced by a digital society.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures, Knowledge Clip Lectures, and Seminars

Method of Assessment

A written exam and an assignment portfolio. For both parts, grades must be sufficient.

Literature

- Schudson, M. (2018). Why journalism still matters. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Additional scientific articles.

Additional Information Target Audience

First year bachelor students Communication Science

Additional Information

This course uses an interactive learning style, based on "flipped classroom" and "team based learning". There is a lecture every week, a knowledge clip lecture with quizzes and a seminar with assignments. Attendance at the knowledge clip lectures and the seminars is mandatory.