

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: Public Affairs for Journalists
Status: Definitive
Code: **7103JOURN** (127234)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
David Toomer	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 10 **Total Delivered Hours:** 34.5
Total Learning Hours: 100 **Private Study:** 65.5

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Seminar	11

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	Essay	Essay on journalism's role in reporting public affairs (1,500 words)	50	
Exam	Exam	Scenario based test (1.5 hours)	50	1.5

Aims

1. To equip students with a good working knowledge of the operation of local and central government
2. To equip students with the skills required to report the affairs of government in a compelling way.

3. To develop student's ability to critically evaluate the impact of political institutions on journalists and citizens.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Apply knowledge and critical understanding of how both local and central government work
- 2 Evaluate the role of local and central government institutions and have a critical understanding of how journalists find and tell stories from local and central government settings
- 3 Understand and critically evaluate how journalists find, interpret and tell stories from publicly available data
- 4 Understand, analyse and critically evaluate how journalistic techniques can hold local and central government to account.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay	2	4		
Exam	1	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

The constitution, the monarch and devolution; The role of the government and parliament in the UK; Britain's relationship with Europe and its institutions; Local government structure and decision making; Holding central and local government to account – elections; Holding central and local government to account – the role of journalists – FOI and covering councils; Controlling money – The Treasury and the economy; Controlling money – local government finance; The structure and funding of the NHS Reporting on key services – education, children and adult services, planning and the environment, welfare, emergency services.

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars.

Notes

This is an option for MA Sports Journalism, core for MA Journalism. The module will prepare students for the NCTJ Public Affairs examination