Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
COM278	Investigative Journalism	4	2	0	0	2	3

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	English
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive theoretical and practical foundation in investigative journalism. It introduces the historical roots, core concepts, and ethical debates of investigative reporting in both Turkish and global contexts, while developing students' ability to access public records, work with human and vulnerable sources, and use data as a reporting tool. Through hands-on research, interviewing, and storytelling exercises, the course seeks to equip students with the skills necessary to transform complex investigations into accurate, ethical, and compelling journalistic narratives, while navigating legal, political, and professional risks.
Content	This course offers a comprehensive introduction to investigative journalism by combining theoretical frameworks with hands-on reporting practice. It examines the historical development and core debates of investigative journalism in Turkish and global contexts, while training students to work with public records, freedom of information mechanisms, human and vulnerable sources, and data-driven reporting tools. Emphasis is placed on ethical decision-making, narrative strategies, and risk management, enabling students to transform rigorous research into compelling investigative stories and to produce an original final project grounded in public interest journalism.
References	Week 1 - Reading/listening: Shapiro, Shaking the Foundations: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America (https://www.amazon.com/Shaking Foundations-Investigative-Journalism-America-ebook/dp/B001TH84YM/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=shaking+the+foundations+shapiro&qid=1622819178&sr=8-1) , Introduction: Striking Through The Mask Solnit, Break The Story (https://yale.instructure.com/courses/87756/files/7446829?wrap=1) Wallace, The End of Extractive Journalism (https://megaphone.link/CFQY7653566448) (podcast) Vardar, Uğur Mumcu: The Foundation Continuing the Legacy of an Assassinated Turkish Investigative Reporter Dağ, Counterfeit Cancer Drugs, Human Trafficking, and the Earthquake's Toxic Aftermath: 2023's Best Investigative Stories from Turkey Dağ, 2022's Best Investigative Stories from Turkey Week 2 - Reading: Blaskey, Sarah et al, "Covid Cruises" (https://www.miamiherald.com/article241640166.html) (Miami Herald, 2020) Eldridge, Taylor, "Why Prisons Get the Doctors No One Else Wants" (https://www.typeinvestigations.org/investigation/2019/11/08/why prisoners-get-the-doctors-no-one-else-wants/) (Type Investigations, 2019) Ford, Andrew, "Five Ways to Hold Police Departments Accountable (https://www.propublica.org/article/i-cover-cops-as-an investigative-reporter-here-are-five-ways-you-can-start-holding-your-department-accountable) " (ProPublica, 2020) Reference: Fish, William, Connecticut Open Information Guide (https://www.rcfp.org/open-government-guide/connecticut/) (Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, 2021) "FOIA and Finding Data," (https://www.journaliststoolbox.org/2021/06/04/public_records_1/) SPJ Journalists' Toolbox (2021) Week 3 - Reading/Listening: Meek, Miki et al. "Our Town" (audio, This American Life, 2017) Nalder, Eric "Loosening Lips: A Guide to Interviewing" (2009) Philadelphia Inquirer, An Apology To Our Readers and Inquirer Employees (https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia-inquirer-black lives-matter-headline-apology-20200603.html) Philadelphia Inquirer, Diversity and Inclusion Audit 2020 (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MJB8IaP4MC_kpP47ZGsVo5y1cAR3VByR/view) Picturing Black Deaths: A Conversation with Emily Bernard and Jelani Cobb (https://dartcenter.org/events/2020/07/picturing-black deaths-conversation-jelani-cobb-and-emily-bernard) , Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, July 2020

Week 4 - Reading:
Anas, “Name, Shame and Jail” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8cRuyNHVmA)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8cRuyNHVmA
Bruder, Jessica and Dale Maharidge, Snowden's Box
(https://yale.instructure.com/courses/87756/files/7446828?wrap=1) Chiquita Secrets Revealed Casebook
(%24CANVAS_COURSE_REFERENCE%24/file_ref/g3798ecffc797a1b128f9a3a86eb27e9e?wrap=1)

Week 5 - Reading/listening:
Bernstein, Andrea, “Trump Inc.” (https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/trumpinc/episodes/trump-inc-corruption-profiteers) (podcast episode 1, 2020)
Walker, Marina et al. “The Panama Papers” (International Center for Investigative Journalism, 2016)

Week 6 - Readings:
Gillers, Stephen, from Journalism Under Fire: Protecting the Future of Investigative Reporting (Columbia University Press, 2018) Lovato, Roberto, from Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs and Revolution in the Americas
Stillman, Sarah, “When Deportation is a Death Sentence”
(https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/15/when-deportation-is-a death-sentence) (The New Yorker, 2018)
Walter, Shoshana et al, American Rehab (https://revealnews.org/american-rehab/) (Reveal Podcast)

References:
Adornato, Anthony, Mobile and Social Media Journalism: A Practical Guide (Ithaca Univ Press, 2018)
Alexievitch, Svetalana, Voices from Chernobyl (Dalkey Archive Press, 2015)
Arendt, Hannah from Eichmann in Jerusalem (Penguin, 1963)
Armstrong, Ken and Miller, T. Christian. “An Unbelievable Story of Rape” (The Marshall Project, 2015)
Blaskey, Sarah et al, “Covid Cruises” (Miami Herald, 2020)
Coll, Steve and Coronel, Sheila, “A Failure That was Avoidable” (Columbia Journalism Review, 2015)
Eldridge, Taylor, “Why Prisons Get the Doctors No One Else Wants” (Type Investigations, 2019)
Erdley, Sabrina “A Rape on Campus” (Rolling Stone, 2014)
Houston, Brant and Mark Horvit, Investigative Reporters' Handbook: A Guide to Documents, Databases and Techniques (Sixth Edition, 2020)
Investigative Reporting Ethics case study: Cincinatti Enquirer and Chiquita (online archive)
Gillers, Stephen, Journalism Under Fire: Protecting the Future of Investigative Reporting (Columbia University Press, 2018) Hannah-Jones, Nikole, “Worlds Apart” (The New York Times Magazine, 2016)
MacGillis, Alec, “Jared Kushner’s Other Real Estate Empire,” The New York Times Magazine, 4/28/18
Meek, Miki et al. “Our Town” (audio, This American Life, 2017)
Nalder, Eric "Loosening Lips: A Guide to Interviewing" (2009)
Philadelphia Inquirer, An Apology To Our Readers and Inquirer Employees
(https://www.inquirer.com/news/philadelphia-inquirer-black lives-matter-headline-apology-20200603.html)
Philadelphia Inquirer, Diversity and Inclusion Audit 2020
(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MJB8laP4MC_kpP47ZGsVo5y1cAR3VByR/view) Philips, Dave, “Other Than Honorable” (Colorado Springs Gazette, 2014)
Roosevelt, Theodore, "The Man With the Muck-rake"(1906)
Shapiro, Bruce, Shaking The Foundations: 200 Years of Investigative Journalism in America (Nation Books/Thunders Mouth Press, 2003) Sigal, Leon, "Sources Make the News" (1986)
Solnit. Rebecca, “Break the Story” (2016)
Smyth, Frank and Hight, Joe, "Tragedies and Journalists" (Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, 2003)
Steffens, Lincoln, "The Shame of Minneapolis" from McClure's (1903)
Stillman, Sarah “The Throwaways” (The New Yorker, 2014) and “When Deportation is a Death Sentence” (The New Yorker, 2018) Stone, I.F., from I.F. Stone's Weekly (1967)
Tarbell, Ida,"The History of Standard Oil" from McClure's (1903)
Walker, Marina et al. “The Panama Papers” (International Center for Investigative Journalism, 2016)
Weber, Max, "Power and Authority" and "The Position of the Official"
Wells, Ida, "A Red Record"
Woodward and Bernstein, from the Washington Post (1973)
“The End of Extractive Journalism” (Links to an external site.) (https://megaphone.link/CFQY7653566448) from The View From Somewhere Podcast (Lewis Raven Wallace)
The View from Everywhere (https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/episodes/on-the-media-view-from-everywhere) , On the Media, April 2 2021
Picturing Black Deaths: A Conversation with Emily Bernard and Jelani Cobb
(https://dartcenter.org/events/2020/07/picturing-black deaths-conversation-jelani-cobb-and-emily-bernard) , Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, July 2020
Anas,

	“Name, Shame and Jail” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8cRuyNHVmA) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8cRuyNHVmA) https://ijec.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2015-BC-syllabus-NEW.pdf https://elearning.aljazeera.net/en/courses/investigative-journalism https://www.gu.se/en/study-gothenburg/masters-programme-in-investigative-journalism-s2jou https://www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students/courses/postgraduate/investigative-journalism Yale Case studies https://gijn.org/topic/case-studies/ https://gijn.org/stories/how-the-financial-times-exposed-a-billion-dollar-fraud/ https://gijn.org/stories/academic-research-fraud-errors/ https://www.propublica.org/article/university-of-illinois-chicago-mani-pavuluri-3-million-research-breakdown

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	What is investigative journalism? Roots and historical background: Türkiye and global / Concepts of investigative journalism: Consensus and contention
2	Fundamentals: Public records and government documents 1. Public documents: Access and strategy 2. Freedom of Information law practice and global perspectives
3	Human Sources I: The theory and practice of interviewing 1. People with power 2. People without power
4	Human Sources II: Vulnerable sources, community and ethics 1. Interviewing and reporting on victims of trauma, violence and loss 2. Reporting on vulnerable communities and neighborhoods
5	Investigative Reporting and Journalism Ethics: Challenges and controversies
6	Data reporting: Technological innovation, reporting method and teaching spreadsheets to sing 1. What makes effective data reporting? 2. Turning Excel into a reporting tool 3. Connecting data to human stories
7	Getting real: From research to story 1. Developing the story: Idea to Hypothesis 2. Investigative narrative: strategies and ethics 3. Legal and Political Hazards: Libel, Harassment and other threats
8	Getting real: Final projects
9	Getting real: Final projects
10	Getting real: Final projects
11	Getting real: Final projects
12	Getting real: Final projects
13	Getting real: Final projects
14	Getting real: Final projects