



American University of Central Asia

TV, Cinema and Media Arts Department

## Fundamentals of TV Journalism

TCMA-102  
SPRING 2025

Instructor: Zhumanazar Koichubekov (MA)

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### Fundamentals of TV Journalism Course syllabus

Meeting day: Thursday

Classroom: NC/C07

Time of first section: 09:25- 10:40

(10-min break)

Time of second section: 10:50– 12:05

Instructor: Zhumanazar Koichubekov (MA)

Contact: [koichubekov\\_zh@auca.kg](mailto:koichubekov_zh@auca.kg)

**Office hours:** Thursday from 12:30 to 14:30

Friday from 12:30 to 14:30

Meeting rooms: NC/C07 or 416

## Brief information about the instructor.

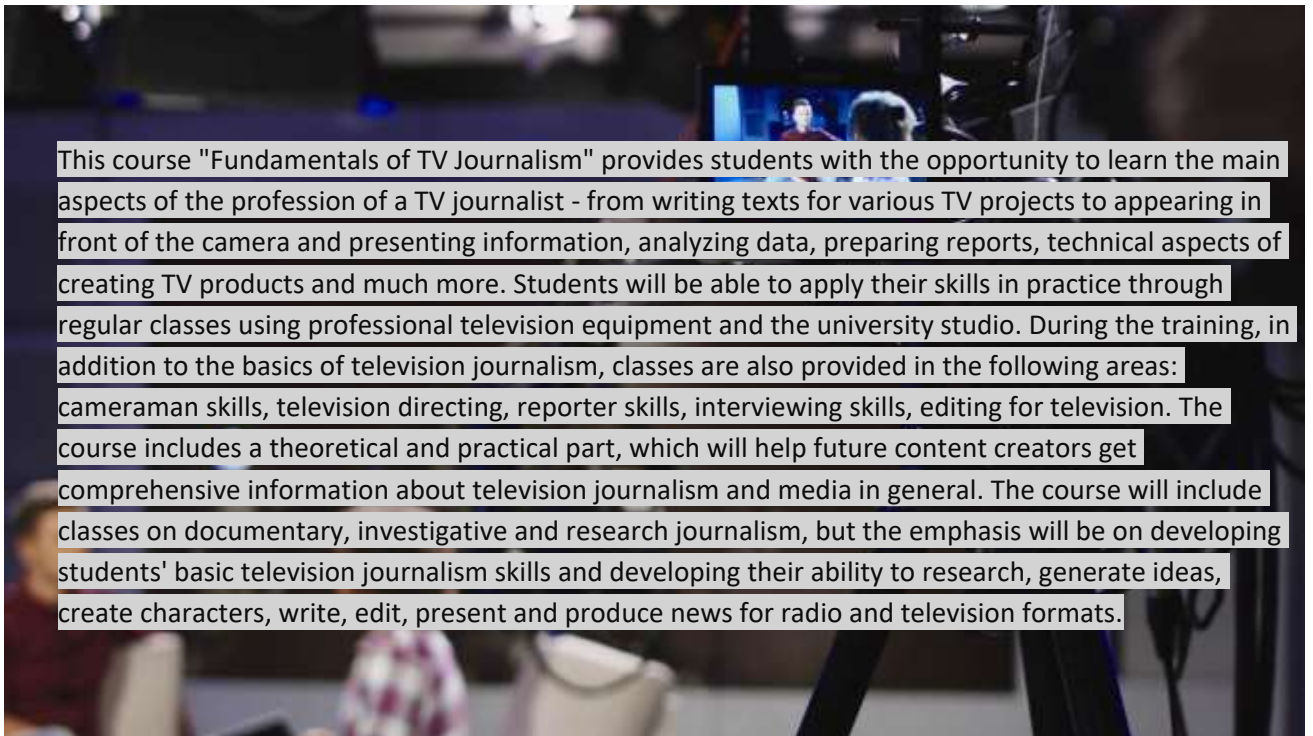
Greetings dear students. My name is Zhumanazar Koichubekov, I teach such courses as Cinematography, Making TV Commercial, Color Correction, and Fundamentals of TV Journalism at American University of Central Asia.

I have been working in the film industry for over 13 years. Worked on more than 20 feature films, 20 documentaries, and many TV programs and TV commercials as a director, and cinematographer.



## Course Description:

This course "Fundamentals of TV Journalism" provides students with the opportunity to learn the main aspects of the profession of a TV journalist - from writing texts for various TV projects to appearing in front of the camera and presenting information, analyzing data, preparing reports, technical aspects of creating TV products and much more. Students will be able to apply their skills in practice through regular classes using professional television equipment and the university studio. During the training, in addition to the basics of television journalism, classes are also provided in the following areas: cameraman skills, television directing, reporter skills, interviewing skills, editing for television. The course includes a theoretical and practical part, which will help future content creators get comprehensive information about television journalism and media in general. The course will include classes on documentary, investigative and research journalism, but the emphasis will be on developing students' basic television journalism skills and developing their ability to research, generate ideas, create characters, write, edit, present and produce news for radio and television formats.



## COURSE OBJECTIVE(S):

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Students will be able to create materials in different genres for TV programs and news.
- Students will interpret verbal and nonverbal information and respond appropriately during an interview.
- Students will practice time management and efficiency in performing the duties of various positions in the production of television programs.
- Students will be able to conduct different surveys for the TV program.
- Students will practice speaking in front of a camera.
- Students will learn the basics of interviewing and stand-up techniques.
- The basics of filming and editing for TV

## Weekly lecture plan:

### Week 1:

Syllabus Review,

Equipment Policy Review, Equipment Introduction.

A brief history of broadcasting journalism, the concept of broadcasting journalism. Discussion on the topic "What is news?"

Screening of TV programs made by students last semester.

### Week 2:

Discussion about the personal qualities of a TV journalist.

Key responsibilities in the broadcasting industry.

Analysis of the difference between traditional journalism and television journalism.

Analysis of the difference between radio and television journalism.

Discussion of the biggest news currently in the news field.

Practical task on collecting information from several sources.

### Week 3:

Analysis of different types of news, particularly current news on TV.

Emergencies in the news: why are emergencies always first in the news?

Crime rates are a constant source of news.

The role of broadcast journalism in local and national government

The role of broadcast journalism in solving problems or conflicts

The importance of timely dissemination of information on television

How can personalities create big news?  
What is seasonal news, and what does it represent?

#### Week 4:

Discussion on the topic "What could become news".  
News gathering in broadcast journalism.  
Character Development: How "good" characters can change a story.  
Tips for time management on television.  
The concept of story in broadcast journalism.  
How to find a character for a TV program.

#### Week 5:

Television storytelling techniques: formulation of focus, coverage of actions and reactions.  
Writing a story for broadcast journalism and working on the text.  
The role of the text editor on television. What information the journalist should cover through the V/O text  
Television and radio news writing techniques.

#### Week 6:

Filming different stand-ups: frame, background, posing of the journalist, goal, sound, when and where to shoot.  
Demonstration of informative examples of stand-ups.  
Intro or bridge standups and closing standups.  
How to shoot effective stand-ups for broadcasting.  
Training on sound editing of stories at VO.  
Adobe premiere training on editing stand-ups and VO/B/VO stories.

#### Week 7:

Ethical standards for broadcast journalists.  
What to show and what not to show on TV.  
How to obtain permission to shoot a reportage? How to deal with copyrights on television.  
Accreditation of a journalist for news reporting.  
Presentation of the first student projects:

#### Week 8:

The importance of interviews for a TV program.  
Different types of interviews in TV.  
Whom to Interview.  
How to Arrange an Appointment for an Interview?  
Research and preparation for the interview.  
The work of a reporter and camera operator.

#### Week 9:

In what cases are the video sequence and the content of the text required to match "one to one"?  
When the picture and the correspondent's text may not match in content?

What are the forms for presenting text if there is no video?  
In what cases is it better to use interviews or NAT-POPS rather than V/O text?

#### Week 10:

Visuals and actuals of news.  
Balance of news.  
What is the brief and how to write it?  
Specificity in news information.  
Mobility in the dissemination of information.  
Broadcasting information from different angles.

#### Week 11:

Visit to one of the television stations in Bishkek.  
Introducing the local journalists.

#### Week 12:

Documentary films and reportage.  
Features of documentary films on television.  
Fieldwork of TV journalist.  
Working of a journalist in emergencies.

#### Week 13:

Presentation of the second student projects:  
This is an individual project for each student. The project should be filmed outside of AUCA.  
This project should be a 5- to 10-minute television reportage or documentary in the following directions:

Human rights in Kyrgyzstan.  
Women's rights in Kyrgyzstan.  
Interview with a politician about the political situation in the country and in the world in general.  
Investigative journalism in the country.  
Filming a report about a cultural event in the country.  
Filming portrait documentaries about famous figures in the country.

Students can propose other topics.

The project must be filmed with professional equipment and with clear-recorded sound.  
Projects with poor sound quality will be rated very low. All projects must be submitted only to the AUCA e-course system on time.

## Week 14:

Broadcasting editing.  
Live broadcast of the event.  
Green screen editing in TV.  
Transitions.  
Basic motion graphics for broadcasting.

## Week 15:

## Week 16:

Final assignment (Project).

## Reading:

*"BROADCAST JOURNALISM" Andrew Boyd*

*"INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING" David Spark*

*"JOURNALISM WORKBOOK" Brendan Hennessy and F. W. Hodgson*

*"LAW AND THE MEDIA" Tom Crone*

*"MODERN NEWSPAPER PRACTICE" F. W. Hodgson*

*"NEWSPAPER LANGUAGE" Nicholas Bagnall*

*"PRACTICAL NEWSPAPER REPORTING" Geoffrey Harris and David Spark*

*"PRACTICAL PHOTOJOURNALISM" Martin Keene NEW SUBEDITING F. W. Hodgson*

*"WRITING FEATURES ARTICLES" Brendan Hennessy*

*Broadcast News, Radio Journalism and an Introduction to Television, Mitchell Stephens, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1980.*

*Broadcast News, Writing and Reporting, Peter E. Mayeux, Brown & Benchmark, 1995.*

*Broadcast News, Writing, Reporting and Producing, Ted White, Focal Press, 1996.*

*Broadcast Voice Performance, Michael C. Keith, Focal Press, 1989.*

*Broadcasting: Getting In and Getting On, John Miller, Newpoint, 1990.*

*Broadcasting in the UK, Barrie MacDonald, Mansell, 1992.*

## My teaching method.

I prefer a free-flowing classroom where students are free to come up with their own creative ideas. I believe it is my responsibility to develop students' basic visual skills and imagination. I combine practical skills with the creative language of film. Support storytelling by encouraging students to work collaboratively with their partners or as a team, as TV journalism is always a team effort.

## Policies:

### Course Policies

### Class requirements:

1. Attendance is mandatory.
2. No late classes.
3. All assignments are mandatory, late assignments are not accepted.
4. No cell phones in class.
5. No cheating during classes and exams. The result will be the course failure.

6. You must work hard on your own creativity. You should ask for teacher's assistance in case of a problem.

Issue	Policy
Attendance & Participation	<p>If you miss three or more classes (<b>not three days; three days of absence equals six lessons</b>), you will not complete the course and will receive an "F". Absences due to illness or other reasons must be communicated to the professor in advance, and a certified medical certificate from the AUCA medical office must be provided. Tardiness and leaving class early are considered half an absence each. Two instances of coming late or early leaving the classes will count as one full absence.</p> <p>It is very important to be active in class, ask questions, answer the instructor's questions, participate in discussions, and express your point of view. Participation will be assessed on the basis of performance in oral and written work, expression of interest, preparation and involvement in the issues discussed in class.</p> <p>Students are not allowed to leave the classroom during the lesson without prior notice to the teacher. Also, if a student is late for the lesson, he/she must ask permission to enter and try not to disturb other students (avoid squeaking chairs, making noise, etc.). If a student is allowed to leave during the lesson, he/she must return within 3 minutes and not be absent for an extended period. If a student is absent for too long, it will be considered a disciplinary violation and 2 points will be deducted from the overall grade.</p>
Electronic devices	<p>It is not allowed to use your smart phone during the lectures neither during the tutorials. This also implies that it is not allowed to make pictures from the slides in class. Using your tablet or laptop to make notes is allowed. Using these and other electronic devices during class without permission or for non-course related purposes, however, results in handing over the device to the teacher (without further discussion) till the end of the class. <u>Students are also prohibited from using the web versions of any social networks.</u></p>
Policy on missed or late assignments and exams:	<p><b>You will have to complete homework assignments through the E-course. No late assignments will be accepted:</b> It is absolutely forbidden to be late for midterm and final exams. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam. Students are prohibited from leaving the classroom during the exam unless absolutely necessary. If cheating and/or plagiarism is detected, the work of students who cheated and who were given the opportunity to cheat will be completely canceled and a "zero" will be awarded for the final exam.</p>
Office hours and contacting your professor	<p>To contact the professors, use the available office hours, e-mail or speak online. During office hours, no appointment is necessary; however, prior notice would be appreciated</p>

**Methods of student evaluation:****Overall course grades are determined as follows:**

#	Description	Date	Points
1	Class attendance	during the course	0 / But if a student misses one lesson, there will be minus 2 points.
2	Assignment №1 - 5 points	On e-course	5
3	Assignment №2 - 10 points	On e-course	5
4	Midterm exam 1	6-7week	10
5	Midterm exam 2	11-12 week	10
6	Assignment №3	On e-course	10
7	Assignment №4	On e-course	10
8	Assignment №5	On e-course	10
9	Final oral exam	14-15 week	10
10	Final project: Creative Assignment	15-16 week	20
11	Class participation	During the semester	10
12	Total:		100



## GRADING SYSTEM EXPLAINED

	GRADE	POINTS
A	Excellent	4.00
A-	Excellent	3.67
B+	Good	3.33
B	Good	3.00
B-	Good	2.67
C+	Average	2.33
C	Average	2.00
C-	Average	1.67
D+	Poor	1.33
D	Poor	1.00
D-	Poor	0.67
F	Failure	0.00
W	Student withdrawn from course	Not used in calculating GPA
I	Incomplete	Not used in calculating GPA
X	Administrative drop	Not used in calculating GPA
p	Passed for degree credit, on a pass/fail basis	Not used in calculating GPA
NP	Not passed for degree credit	Not used in calculating GPA

I wish you a great semester and successful completion of this course!

