

# NEWS AND JOURNALISM 2021

## Syllabus



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## General Information about the course

Course Name	News and Journalism	
Course Code	S_NAJ	
EC	6 EC, 168 hours	
Academic year	2021-2022	
Language	En	
Course coordinator	Andreu Casas	
Teaching Staff	Andreu Casas, Marloes Jansen	
Level	100	
Mode of instruction	Seminars, Online lectures, Knowledge clip lectures, Assignments	
Mode of assessment	Exam and Portfolio of Assignments	
Open to	Students bachelor Communication Science, open to electives	
Frequency per week	See schedule: 3 meetings, Monday, Wednesday, Friday Monday: 13:30-15:00 Wednesday: 11:00-12:30 Friday: 9:00-10:30 group 1 11:00-12:30 group 2	
Study load allocation	<b>per week</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Meetings	4,5
	Readings	10,0
	Knowledge clips	10,0
	Assignments	22,0
	Preparation for the exam	24,0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>147,5</b>

## Course description and objectives

This course is about news, about journalism and its social significance. We study how news is produced. Journalists make the news, but how do they select the relevant news events? How do they shape journalistic values such as objectivity, impartiality, professionalism and news values? And why do they do so? What forms of bias or distortion do journalistic routines create and what is the societal impact thereof? Traditionally speaking, journalism has played an important role in modern democratic societies, but at the same time it is also a commercial undertaking. Journalism has changed a great deal in recent decades as a result of the digitalization of communication, and with it, its role and significance for society.

### Learning outcomes

After 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 media environment in a comparative perspective;
- reflect critically on the (difficult) relationship between journalists, (organizational) sources and the public.

## Structure of the course

This course is one of the two first courses in the bachelor program Communication Science. You follow this course in parallel with the course [Introduction to Communication Science](#). Whereas [Introduction to Communication Science](#) provides you with a broad overview of the field, [News and Journalism](#) focus on the sub-field of public communication. This course also lays the foundation for other courses that focus on public communication, like the course [Media, Society and Politics](#) in year two, period two. Because it is one of the two first courses in this program, this course is designed in such a way that it stimulates active learning. You will be challenged not only to understand the literature, but also to apply that knowledge on actual news cases. We ask for an active commitment from all students, but we also offer a lot of support in learning and give feedback on interim work.

### Didactical principles

This course makes use of two didactical principles: the principles of 'flipped classroom' and 'team-based learning'.

**Team-based learning** is based on the idea that students can learn a lot from each other by exchanging knowledge and experience, and by discussing the subject matter with each other. It is in line with the idea that a diverse group always has more knowledge in its possession than a single individual or a less diverse group. In this course, therefore, you will work in a randomly formed team of five students during the knowledge clip lectures (on Wednesdays) and in the study groups meetings (on Fridays). To discourage free-riding, by the end of the course the students are asked to evaluate their team members. Low evaluations by your team members can lead to lower grades for the assignments.

A '**flipped classroom**' is a reversed form of classical education, in which the knowledge assignment takes place outside the lectures, so that the material can be actively used during the lectures. In this way,

more teaching time is available for answering questions, deepening the knowledge and testing the learning outcomes.

The set-up is as follows: each week starts with a lecture on Monday. In this case the lecture will be a recorded lecture available online, consisting of one or more slide casts. In the slide casts a brief explanation of the readings of the week and additional information to contextualize the literature will be given. A major part of your study time during the week must be devoted to reading the literature. The literature will be complemented with compulsory knowledge clips, which are short videos explaining in more detail complex subjects related to the literature.

On Wednesday, we will meet in person in the so-called knowledge clip lecture (KCL). Your attendance is mandatory. The first half hour of the knowledge clip lecture always starts with a small test on the lecture, knowledge clips and the associated literature for the week. You will do the same test twice, the first time by yourself, and the second time together with the other people in your team. The tests count towards the final grade of your assignment portfolio. The second half of the knowledge clip lecture offers an application assignment that helps you process the subject matter on a deeper cognitive level.

Next to the literature, you will be given a weekly assignment that helps you to apply the knowledge you have gained to current examples in the news. The assignment is supervised during the study group meeting on Friday in several parallel groups. It is essential that you come to these meetings well prepared. For this reason, you will need to work on short individual assignments in preparation for the Friday group meetings.

## Overview of the weekly themes

All lectures have a theme. The content of the lectures, knowledge clip lectures, seminars, literature, and knowledge clips are in line with the theme of the week. The book by Schudson (2011) *The sociology of news* is the leitmotif for the theory we are studying in this course. But the chapters from Schudson are not assigned in the order of the book, but in an order that suits the themes of the week best.

The theme of the first week is **THE NEWS AND THE NEW(S) CONSUMER**. We start on Monday with an online lecture in which the theme of the course is introduced and practical matters are explained. Thematically, we start close to home, exploring the question: who are the news consumers and how do we consume the news ourselves? Wednesday is the first knowledge clip lecture with the first tests. Friday is the study group meeting in which you will work with your team on your first assignment.

Week two has the theme **JOURNALISM: HISTORY OF NEWS ORGANISATIONS AND MEDIA SYSTEMS**. We are now diving into questions on the origins of news organisations and how this differs over media systems. How did journalism come about? What social developments and ideals have played a role in this? Does this vary across countries? With your team, you will start working on assignment 2 that runs over several weeks.

The third week revolves around **OBJECTIVITY AND NEWS VALUES**. We will focus on news stories and objectivity. Why do some events become news and others do not? How is objectivity created in the news? On Friday, we continue working on assignment 2, analysing news values and objectivity.

The fourth week is about **FRAMING OR BIAS (?)**. In the lecture on Monday we talk about the effects or impact of news. We analyse how journalists use frames, both intentionally and unintentionally, and what kind of implications that might have. During the knowledge clip lecture, we will learn to recognize and apply the different frames in the news. We will work on the last part of assignment 2: analysing sources and frames.

In week five, we talk about **NEWS EFFECTS**. We consider the close relationship between politics and journalism and explore contemporary topics such as fake news. We will read different articles to explore this theme.

In the sixth week, we move from theoretical insights and considerations to practical ones with the theme [JOURNALISM IN PRACTICE](#). You will interview journalists about their work and write a reflection report.

In the seventh week, we conclude the course thematically with [NEWS IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND WRAP-UP](#). On Friday, there will be a wrap-up lecture, where you can pose your last questions before the exam. The exam is on Wednesday October 27, 2021. Assignment 3 is due October 18, 2021.

## Literature

Knowledge about journalism can be acquired by studying literature, through a book, scientific articles and knowledge clips. Knowledge and insight and the application of knowledge and insight are tested by means of an exam. The examination consists of multiple choice and open ended questions. Examination material consists of: a) the compulsory literature; b) the material discussed in the knowledge clips; and c) the material discussed in the study group meetings. The sheets and knowledge clips of the lectures are published on Canvas.

We will use Schudson's book *The sociology of news* (2011) as a base for the discussions on the theme of the week. Please make sure to have a copy of the book by the start of the course, as it will be a crucial piece of literature from day 1. In addition, we use recent scientific articles that offer more in-depth information on that theme. See the list of compulsory literature below, the overview schedule shows the literature for each lecture. All articles can be found online and you have to download them yourself.

### Book:

Schudson, M. (2011). *The sociology of news (2nd edition)*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company

### Articles:

Aaldering, L., & Van Der Pas, D. J. (2018). Political leadership in the media: Gender bias in leader stereotypes during campaign and routine times. *British Journal of Political Science*, 1-21. doi:10.1017/S0007123417000795

Costera Meijer, I., & Groot Kormelink, T. (2020). *Changing news use; Unchanged news experiences?* Chapter 2: Scrolling, triangulating, tagging, and abstaining. Pp. 15-38. London: Routledge. doi.org/10.4324/9781003041719

Egelhofer, J. L., & Lecheler, S. (2019). Fake news as a two-dimensional phenomenon: a framework and research agenda. *Annals of the International Communication Association*, 43(2), 97-116. doi:10.1080/23808985.2019.1602782

Hallin, D. C., & Mancini, P. (2004). *Comparing media systems: Three models of media and politics*. Cambridge University Press. Ch 2 & 4.

Harcup, T., and O'Neill, D. (2017). What is News? News values revisited (again). *Journalism Studies*, 18(12), 1470-1488, doi:10.1080/1461670X.2016.1150193

Kleinnijenhuis, J., van Hoof, A.M.J., & van Atteveldt, W. (2019). The combined effects of mass media and social media on political perceptions and preferences. *Journal of Communication*, 69(6), 650-673. doi:10.1093/joc/jqz038

Matthes, J. (2012). Framing politics: An integrative approach. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 56(3), 247-259. doi:10.1177/0002764211426324

Wahl-Jorgensen, K., Williams, A., Sambrook, R., Charris, J., Garcia-Blanco, I., Dencik, L., Cushion, S., Carter, C. & Allan, S. (2016). The future of journalism. *Digital Journalism*, 4(7), 809-815, doi:10.1080/21670811.2016.1199469

## Course load

This course is rewarded with 6 ECTS, which is roughly divided as demonstrated below. Here you will find an overview of the study load broken down by week.

	per week	Total
Meetings	4,5	31,5
Readings	10,0	60,0
Knowledge clips		10
Assignments		22,0
Preparation for the exam		24,0
<b>Total</b>		<b>147,5</b>

## Grading

The **final grade** exists of the following parts:

- Individual digital exam grade counts for 60% of the final grade.
- Portfolio of assignments. The portfolio exists of four assignments for which team grades or individual grades are obtained. The average of the four assignments counts for 40% for the final grade.

The grades for both parts should be **sufficient**.

The **portfolio of assignments** exists of the following subparts:

- Assignment 1: The new(s) consumer': 20% of the portfolio of assignments
- Assignment 2: Analysis of news products: 30% of the portfolio of assignments
- Assignment 3: Reflection: Journalism in practice: 30% of the portfolio of assignments
- Quizzes during the knowledge clip lectures: 20% of the portfolio of assignments

Grades of the portfolio of assignments can be offset against each other.

**Attendance** at the knowledge clip lectures, study group meetings and the interactive guest lecture are mandatory. You can only be absent one time at the knowledge clip lectures and one time at the study group meeting. The attendance requirements must be met in order to be able to take part in the exam.

**Resit.** One possibility for a resit is offered. An insufficient grade for the individual digital exam can be rescheduled with a digital resit. The digital resit is scheduled Wednesday December 8, 2021 from 18:45-21:00 hours. An insufficient mark for the assignment portfolio can be resit by means of an oral presentation. The oral re-examination of the assignment portfolio takes place on 3 December 2021.

## Assessment matrix

Learning outcomes	K&I*	A**	Exit qualification	Assessment in assignment
After completion of this course, the student is able to describe and explain the developments in journalism (as an institution) in the modern democratic society;	x	x	1a, 1b,	Assignment 2; written exam
reproduce and apply different theoretical perspectives on selection and presentation of the news as an explanatory model of current news examples;	x	x	2a, 2b	Assignment 2; assignment 3; written exam
explain how news influences attitudes of news consumers;	x	x		Assignment 1; written exam
describe the media environment in a comparative perspective;		x	1c	Assignment 2; written exam
reflect critically on the (difficult) relationship between journalists, (organizational) sources and the public.		x	3a	Assignment 3

\*Knowledge and insight; \*\*application

### *Exit qualifications bachelor programme Communication Science*

Knowledge and understanding –

1. graduates will have a good knowledge and understanding of:
  - a. the basic principles of communication science and its most important theories, in particular those relating to the public, organizational and private domains;
  - b. the ongoing scientific debate around communication processes within the public, organizational and private domains, such that they are able to interpret current theoretical developments;
  - c. the media landscape and developments within it; the ability to interpret the Dutch media landscape in an international context;
2. Application of knowledge and understanding - a graduate is able:
  - a. to apply the most important theories in communication science, including recent developments, to fundamental issues of communication from the public, organizational and private domains;
  - b. to apply the most important theories in communication science, including recent developments and in particular those with regard to the public, organizational and private domains, in responding to communication-related issues in society;
3. Judgement - a graduate is able:
  - a. to interpret theoretical argumentation in the field of communication science;

## Exam instruction

This document contains all the information about the individual exam of *News and Journalism*.

The individual exam is taken on **Wednesday October 27, 2021** from **12:15-14:30 hrs EST**.

It is an digital exam via Testvision.



### Form of the individual exam

- The test consists of 40 questions: 30 closed questions and 10 open-ended questions.
- You can score a maximum of 2 points for each question. This means that you can score a total of 80 points for the test.
- For open-ended questions holds that:
  - They can always be answered with a few sentences.
  - You have to formulate your answers carefully and concisely and only provide an answer the question asked.
  - The scores on the open questions can vary from 0 points (completely wrong), to 1 point (partly correct), to 2 points (completely correct).
- There are several types of closed questions.
  - Most closed questions are multi-choice questions with four answer categories and one correct answer. The scores on these questions can vary from 0 points (wrong) to 2 points (right).
  - There are also closed questions in which two answers are correct, as well as
  - questions in which you have to connect elements. The scores on these questions can vary from 0 to 2 points.
- The open questions count for 25% of the examination mark, the multiple choice questions for 75%.
- The multiple-choice questions are weighted for the gambling chance of 25%.
- You are not allowed to use any materials, i.e. **NO** scratch paper, calculator, notes, etcetera)

You pass the exam with a grade of 5.5 or higher.

### Compulsory literature and exam matrix

The individual exam tests your knowledge about the compulsory literature of this course.

The questions will be distributed over the materials as follows:

Modules	nr of questions	Reproducing knowledge	Synthesizing knowledge	Applying knowledge	mc	open
1 The news and the new(s) consumer	5	2	1	2	3	2
2 Journalism: history of news organisations and media systems	7	5		2	5	2
3 Objectivity and news values	8	4	2	2	6	2
4 Framing or bias (?)	9	4	2	3	8	1
5 News effects	6	2	3	1	4	2
6 Journalism in practice	1			1		1
7 News in de 21st century	4	3	1		4	
Total	40	20	9	11	30	10

### Mock Exam

In the week before the individual exam, a mock exam will be available. The mock exam consist of the tRAT questions. So, it consist of 25 multiple choice questions. You can take the mock exam twice. Prepare yourself well for the mock exam. Take it as if it were the actual exam.

## Schedule

For a more detailed schedule: see Canvas.

WEEK 1		The news and the new(s) consumer				
		readings		Schudson Intro+H1+H9 ; Costera Meijer & Groot Kormelink (		
		knowledge clips				
DAY DATE	TYPE	TIME	ROOM	GROUP: Lecturer	CONTENT	
MO	sep 06	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	setup course; introduction theme: the news and the new(e/s) consumer
WE	sep 08	KCL	11:00-12:30	HG-6A32	Casas	Schudson Intro+H1+H9 ; Costera Meijer & Groot Kormelink (2020)
FR	sep 10	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 1: new(s) consumer
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>12</b>		<- Total time investment per week				
WEEK 2		Journalism: history of news organisations and media system				
		English language test		Schudson H4+H6 ; Hallin & Mancini H2&4		
		readings		3 Media systems, 4 Commercial context of news		
		knowledge clips				
DAY DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT	
MO	sep 13	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	Journalistic principles
			18:00			finalize assignment 1
WE	sep 15	KCL	11:00-12:30	HG-5A33	Casas	Schudson H4+H6 ; Hallin & Mancini H2&4
FR	sep 17	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 2a: Analysis of news organisations
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>22</b>		<- Total time investment per week				
WEEK 3		Objectivity and news values				
		readings		Schudson H5,10; Harcup & O'Neill (2017)		
		knowledge clips		1 historical perspectives on journalism, 2 Objectivity, 0 new		
DAY DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT	
MO	sep 20	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	News stories
			18:00			finalize assignment 2a
WE	sep 22	KCL	11:00-12:30	NU-5A57	Casas	Schudson H5,10; Harcup & O'Neill (2017); Knowledge clips 1 and 2
FR	sep 24	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 2b: analysis of news: objectivity and news values
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>21</b>		<- Total time investment per week				

WEEK 4				Framing or bias (?)		
readings				Schudson H2, 3, 7 ; Matthes (2014)		
knowledge clips				8 Definitions of framing, 7 frames en frame catalog, 5 Typo		
DAY	DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT
MO	sep 27	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	Media bias en framing
			18:00			finalize assignment 2b
WE	sep 29	KCL	11:00-12:30	OZW-6A01	Casas	Schudson H2, 3 ; Matthes (2014); KC7,8
TH	sep 30	self study				
FR	okt 01	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 2c: analysis of news: frames and sources
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>21</b> <- Total time investment per week						
WEEK 5				News effects		
readings				Schudson H8; Egelhofer & Lecheler; Aaldering & van der Pas		
knowledge clips				10		
DAY	DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT
MO	okt 04	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	Political culture of news
			18:00			finalize assignment 2
WE	okt 06	KCL	11:00-12:30	NU-5A57	Casas	Schudson H8; KC 10; Kleinnijenhuis et al. (2019); Aaldering & van der Pas (2018)
FR	okt 08	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 3a: prepare interview with journalists
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>20</b> <- Total time investment per week						
WEEK 6				News effects		
readings						
knowledge clips						
exam preparation						
DAY	DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT
MO	okt 11		NO CLASS			
			18:00			finalize assignment 3a
	okt 13	KCL	11:00-12:30	HG-6A32	Casas	interview with journalists
FR	okt 15	SG	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	group 1: Jansen	Assignment 3b: reflection on interview with journalists
		SG	11:00-12:30	HG-6A37	group 2: Jansen	
<b>15</b> <- Total time investment per week						
WEEK 7				News in the 21st century		
readings				Schudson H11+12; Wahl-Jorgensen et al. (2015).		
knowledge clips				9 News stories and sybolism, 10 News effects theories		
exam preparation						
DAY	DATE	TYPE	TIME		GROUP	CONTENT
MO	okt 18	L	13:30-15:00	online recording	Casas	News in the 21st century
			18:00			finalize assignment 3
WE	okt 20	KCL	11:00-12:30	HG-6A32	Casas	Schudson H11+H12; Wahl-Jorgensen et al. 2015.
FR	okt 22	L	9:00-10:30	HG-6A37	Casas	Response lecture
<b>21</b> <- Total time investment per week						
WEEK 8				exam preparation		

# Appendix

## Appendix A

Assignment 1: The New(s) consumer

For assignment description: see Canvas

## Appendix B

Assignment 2: Analysis of news products

For assignment description: see Canvas

## Appendix C

Assignment 3: Reflection: Journalism in practice

For assignment description: see Canvas