

Writing for the Modern Media: How to write news articles

Start date	17 April 2021	Time	10:00 – 16:45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Tony Padman	Course code	2021NDX232

Director of Programmes Dr Corinne Boz
For further information on this course, please contact The Creative Writing Team
creativewriting@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761 278
To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746 262

Tutor biography

Tony Padman studied journalism at the University of London and then undertook a series of short courses in advanced news and feature writing, media law and interviewing skills. He began his journalism career in 2000 writing for The London Evening Standard and then spent five years as a reporter and feature writer on his local newspaper, The Ham&High covering the boroughs of Camden and Westminster. He now writes news and features for a broad range of national newspapers and magazines. He took his teaching qualification in 2008 and then returned to the University of London – this time as a sessional journalism lecturer to first year students.

Course programme Saturday

With over 25,000 newspapers, magazines and online publications, there's never been a better time to begin writing news articles. Stories are everywhere, and your skills in news writing will also be in demand for features. This introductory course will show you the basics of what makes a good news article and how to write it.

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	News values, what makes news and how the newspaper market works
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	News structure, how to use quotes and what questions to ask
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	How to write the NIBs (news in brief)
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	How to write and edit your news report
16:45	End of Day 1

This course is offered in conjunction with Writing for the Modern Media: How to write feature articles taking place on Sunday 7 June 2020

Course syllabus

Aims:

- To understand what makes news
- To explore the different types of news stories
- To understand how news differs from other types of writing
- To develop a set of skills required for writing news

Content:

Have you read articles in newspapers, magazines and newsletters and wished that you could write like that - and get paid to do it? You will discover the basic skills needed to write news from a professional Fleet Street journalist. This highly practical beginners' course will explore how a story progresses from the idea to interviewing, writing and editing. With over 26,000 magazines and 1,000 newspapers published in Britain every year, there's never been a better time to begin writing news – be it local, regional or national; it could also be about your favourite subject, work or hobby. We'll look at what makes a good news story – and what doesn't; what you want to write about; where to find ideas; how hard and soft news differ and editing to length.

This course will give you a much greater understanding of how publications operate and how to write news. By the end of the course you will be more familiar with the newspaper and magazine industry; be able to use new skills to enable you to write news articles and have more confidence in your writing.

Presentation of the course:

This is a highly practical course with plenty of group work. There will be classroom discussions, articles, which will show you how the story progressed from idea to publication and feedback on your writing. In addition, there will be short films showing how newspapers are produced today using the latest technology and the method used 50 years ago before computers.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Write a NIB using concise language
- Write a news report with an awareness of quotes and questions
- Edit a story to length with an keen eye for detail
- Understand the skills required to write news articles

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Rusbridger, Alan	<i>Breaking News and the Remaking of Journalism</i>	Cannongate Books, 2018
Thompson, Jeremy	<i>Breaking News: An Autobiography</i>	Biteback Publishing, 2017
Simpson, John	<i>We Chose to Speak of War and Strife</i>	Bloomsbury, 2016
Marr, Andrew	<i>My Trade</i>	MacMillan, 2004
Davies, Nick	<i>Flat Earth News</i>	Chatto & Windus, 2008
Greenslade, Roy	<i>Press Gang</i>	Pan, 2004

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 21 November 2019