# **Module Specification**

**Module Title:** Professional Studies 3: Music Journalism

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| **Module code:** | HBASHR022 | **NQF level:** | Level 6 |
| **Credit value:** | 20 credits | **Semester of study:** | 1 and 2 |
| **Module type:** | Optional | **Pre-requisites:** | None |
| **Available to:** | BA (Hons) Music (Business) (Classical) (Film Music) (Folk) (Jazz) (Popular) (Production) (Songwriting) |

**Module overview**

Students will investigate journalistic issues such as the ethical dilemmas faced by journalists in a multi-media environment in order to understand the significance of the relationship between music artists, their audiences and the music critics. Further developing an understanding of one's own aesthetic approach to writing reviews and critically evaluating the variety of stylistic possibilities available in print and online media will enable the production of a sophisticated portfolio of articles. Technical skills such as interviewing, reviewing and writing to a brief alongside the legal and ethical considerations are key areas of exploration.

**Aims**

This module addresses a range of skills needed to undertake journalistic practices and includes important considerations relating to ethics. It forms part of the programme’s professional studies strand and its commitment to enhancing employment opportunities and a portfolio career.

The module aims to:

1. Consider the evolving landscape of music journalism and it impact on the music industry, as well as other associated fields such as magazine production, copyrighting, social media management, web designing, PR and education.
2. Enhance understanding of the different perspectives of music journalists, so that students may deal with the media more effectively, and introduce students to the concepts and current practices of journalistic writing including print and online.
3. Investigate journalistic issues such as the ethical dilemmas faced by journalists in a multi-media environment in order to produce critically engaged articles.
4. Develop research and writing knowledge linked to a specified interest area.

**Learning outcomes**

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Understand the ethical issues underpinning journalism.
2. Critically reflect on the published context of music-based articles and analyse the important factors influencing the writing.
3. Write with an emerging personal style in a variety of contexts.
4. Experiment, as appropriate, with forms, conventions, languages, techniques and practices within music journalism and feature writing forms to produce a variety of journalistic output.

**Learning and teaching methods**

This module will be delivered through a lecture and seminar series.

**Lectures** are used for the effective delivery of key subject areas as outlined in the indicative content.

**Seminars** will be used to promote discussion in order to evaluate and critically appraise what has been covered in the lectures. For this module theoretical and contextual perspectives of journalistic practices will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars. The students will apply the knowledge learned to create a portfolio of articles over the duration of the module.

**Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Delivery type** | **Student hours** |
| Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities | 30 hours |
| Indicative hours of directed study | 170 hours |
| Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits) | 200 hours |

**Opportunities for formative feedback**

Students will receive formative assessment though seminar sessions.

**Assessment Method**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of assessment** | **Length/Duration** | **Weighting** | **Module LOs addressed** |
| Coursework | 2000 words | 50% | 1, 2 |
| Portfolio of commercially publishable/useable journalistic material | 2000 words | 50% | 3, 4 |

**Re-Assessment Method**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of assessment** | **Length/Duration** | **Weighting** | **Module LOs addressed** |
| Coursework | 2000 words | 50% | 1, 2 |
| Portfolio of commercially publishable/useable journalistic material | 2000 words | 50% | 3, 4 |

**Indicative Reading List**

Essential:

* Keeble, R. ( 2009) Ethics for Journalists. Routledge.
* Marcus, G & Daphne Carr (eds). (2009) Best Music Writing. Da Capo Press.
* Watson, B, W. C. Bamberger (ed). (2010) Honesty is Explosive: Selected Music Journalism. Borgo Press.

Recommended:

* Bourdieu, Pi. (2001) On Television. The New Press.
* Carlson,M. 2017  Journalistic Authority: Legitimating News in the Digital Era
* Frith, S. (1988) Performing Rites: On the Value of Popular Music. Harvard University Press.
* Goodwin, A. (1992) Dancing in the Distraction Factory: Music Television and Popular Culture. University of Minnesota.
* Hooks, B. (2004) Outlaw Culture: Resisting Representations. Routledge.
* Nehring, N. (1997) Popular Music, Gender and Postmodernism: Anger Is an Energy. Sage.
* Supple, L. 2013 . Music Journalism 101: The Definitive Resource for New and Established Writers
* Washburne, C J. (ed). (2004) Bad Music. Routledge.
* Woodworth, M. 2015 How to Write About Music: Excerpts from the 33 1/3 Series