



Instructor: Chan Pui King

Timetable : July 11 22 (9:30am – 1pm), 10 Classes, 3.5 Hours/Class

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to equip participants with the skills to find and research original, ground-breaking news stories. It will cover digital research, using public records and databases to find stories clues and locate human sources and evidence, computer-assisted reporting, in-depth interviewing, beating the competition, and writing stories that make an impact. It will feature guest lecturers and hands-on practice on the access and analysis of records in participants' in-class work on cross-border stories. Crime, corruption, environmental destruction, the flow of money, goods and people are now all cross-border issues which require an understanding of techniques for cross-border research.

OBJECTIVES:

- * To introduce the concept and techniques of enterprise reporting on cross-border issues.
- * To help students develop an investigative mindset.
- * To equip students with the tools, including basic computer-assisted research and reporting that they need to be able to conceptualize, research and report enterprise stories on their own.

PRE-REQUISITE:

Students should have basic understanding of journalism, acquired from school or work.

COURSE WORK:

You are required to participate in class discussion and practical exercises on accessing and analyzing records, and preparation for investigative reporting. You are particularly encouraged to bring some news issues of your interest or of your work in class discussion. Readings will be distributed in class or posted on the course blog. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to review the class lecture notes and read newspapers to catch up with current affairs, so that the class could be conducted smoothly.

INSTRUCTOR: Chan Pui-king

Chan Pui-king is a journalism teacher and veteran investigative journalist who has also worked in media management. She was editor-in-chief of Next Magazine where she helped lead teams on investigative projects involving political, corporate and business issues. Recently, she also contributed reporting for the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on cross-border investigative projects. She was the first research fellow of the Journalism and Media Studies Centre at The University of Hong Kong in 1999 and wrote a guide on access to public information in Hong Kong that has become an authoritative reference for journalists. Part of the work was

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published in Hong Kong Media Law: A Guide for Journalists and Media Professionals. She is teaching journalism classes at undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has a BSocSci degree from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and a MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Course Timetable:

Class	Topic	Brief Description
July 11	1. What is Investigative Reporting 2. Why cross-border news issues matter	- how investigative reporting is different from other reporting, in terms of types of issues, reporters' mindset and skills - building hypothesis at the beginning, and proceed to evidence-based reporting/verification - examine cross-border news issues and their increasing significance in globalized world order
July 12	Finding human sources	- using directories and expert lists - how social media and other online tools help build up reporters' network
July 13	Backgrounding a person	- how backgrounding people is important for reporters in preparing effective interviews, and getting to know people in a more objective and thorough way - major types of public records about a person: how to access and read them
July 14	Tracking Money Trails: companies and properties, I	- what company and property records reveal about a person, and possible corruption and other hidden wrongdoings - how to access and read company and property records
July 15	Tracking Money Trails: companies and properties, II	- same as above
July 18	Mining data from Databases	- introduction of some databases useful for probing cross-border issues
July 19	Working on an investigative project	- practice the investigative reporting skills in a cross-border news project assigned by instructor, or in students' initiated projects
July 20	Interviewing techniques	- how to prepare for effective interviews - how to handle unwilling interviewees
July 21	Guest speaker	A veteran investigator on international crime will share his/her experience and talk on the trend of such crimes
July 22	Writing an investigative report	- how to organize the materials from reporting - how to write stories with impact