

NEWS AND VIEWS

Levels B1, B2, C1, C2

Chaz Pagliese

This is a course in the language and content of current affairs, and in the formulation, exchange, and confrontation of viewpoints. As well as working on current affairs, students will have the opportunity to present and discuss their own viewpoints on any topic they consider important, personal or academic alike.



Aims

- Provide a forum for real exchange on real topics between students, and provide help in improving the quality of their English.
- Encourage students to explore English language news media and to keep abreast of world events, while keeping a critical eye open for possible “hidden agendas”.

Method

Students will take it in turns to choose articles and topics for discussion, and will also take responsibility for leading discussions and designing different activities such as interviews, simulated news programmes, and debates. Students will contribute written work towards a final “class review” – not so much a newspaper as a collection of viewpoints and varying opinions.

Self-Study project:

Students will be requested to work in small groups, focus on a news item/current affair, compare and contrast how the news is dealt with in the media, and share their findings (orally) with the rest of the group.

Evaluation

Active participation, including preparing topics and leading discussions 40%

Written work, 25%

Formal presentation 25%