

In the News
Clare Lavelle - Levels B1-C1

What's in the news? From the serious to the light-hearted, and from the culture-specific to the universal, the news interests and intrigues readers everywhere.

This course will enable students to become efficient, critical readers and writers. Articles are discussed and debated, fake news and its impacts will be analyzed. Each week students will present a *Talking Point* on current affairs to promote free discussion and an in-depth understanding of these. There is ample opportunity for budding journalists to understand what it means to be a journalist today and to learn the characteristics and conventions of journalistic writing.

Learning objectives:

- Improving critical thinking and knowledge of current affairs.
- Expanding vocabulary and working with idiomatic expressions.
- Practice interviewing, discussing and debating.
- Writing short news reports and articles.

Evaluation:

- Active participation (Talking Point discussions, Press Conference role-play, Prime Time show) - 25%
- Homework assignments (reading/researching/journalistic writing of news items) - 25%
- Short article-writing assignment for publication - 25%
- Short news report/documentary (video) student-led assignment - 25%

Sources: Newspapers, new media, The News from the global news TV channels and radio stations CNN, BBC, RTE, AL Jazeera, Sky News, etc.
