**Criteria to be applied to Taught Postgraduate Assessment in the Centre for Journalism**

Below is a statement of the assessment criteria to be used in the Centre for Journalism for the marking of all assessed work on taught postgraduate programmes:-

The standard categories of marks are: Postgraduate Diploma/Masters Fail 0-49%; Pass 50-59%; Merit 60-69%; Distinction 70% and above.

**80% or higher:** A superb answer that manages to combine incisive writing and thinking with an impressive knowledge of the subject area. The answer should show evidence of reading that goes well beyond that taught in the programme or module, but should integrate this with novel personal reflections that demonstrate an exceptional perception of the subject area. The answer is well-reasoned, well-organised and presented with no serious typographical errors and, with only very minor modification, is of a standard that could be published in a relevant academic journal.

**70-79%:** An excellent answer that demonstrates considerable independent thinking and links this with a broad and detailed knowledge of the subject area. This should be exemplified by an astute choice of relevant examples where appropriate, derived from material that goes beyond that suggested for the programme or module. This should be integrated into a well-reasoned answer that carries a clear, thoughtful and substantiated line of argument.

**60-69%:** A meritorious and distinctive answer that integrates material from different sources into a concise and well-organised account of the subject area. There should be evidence of independent research effort and evaluative thinking that has been developed from ideas presented in the programme or module, and the submission should provide a clear, concise and well-reasoned answer that covers the important points without major omission.

**55-59%:** A satisfactory pass answer that demonstrates a generally sound understanding of the subject area supported by relevant examples that are demonstrably well understood and presented coherently. Typically, an answer in this category falls short of a merit classification because of shortcomings in coverage, misunderstandings of critical issues, or because the presentation, organisation or writing style are deficient.

**50-54%:** A bare pass level of answer that represents the minimum acceptable standard. This should indicate an awareness of basic reading materials recommended for the programme or module and a minimal understanding of the contentious issues relevant to the topic being covered. A mark in this range might also be awarded where there is a significant amount of irrelevance or where lines of argument are seriously obscured by misconceptions, incoherence or dislocated presentation.

**40-49%:** A fail answer that makes reference to material that was covered in the programme or module, but reproduces this in an unfocused or uncritical way, showing little or no evidence of reading around the subject or of independent thinking. Alternatively, the answer fails to address the question posed or shows a significant lack of understanding of the area at issue.

**39% and below:** A serious fail answer that completely fails to address the question posed showing little evidence of understanding of the subject area. The answer may contain serious errors or be presented in an incoherent, disorganised or illegible way.