**J. Thomson**

**Course title: How to read a newspaper**

**Summary: A healthy democracy requires not just a free and fearless news media to police it, but also a discerning and well-informed audience to hold the media itself to account. This course will look at how current affairs and historical events are presented in the Slovak and international media, and the ways in which popular perceptions are shaped and sometimes manipulated in the process. Students will study the print, broadcast and electronic media. Every week, each member of the class will source and analyse an example of media coverage, and we will discuss these examples together in class.**

**Participation in class discussion will be the main assessment criterion, although reading/viewing assignments and course work assignments will also be set.**

**Maximum class size: 10-12**

**Suggested weekly focus:**

**Political news**

**Business news**

**Crime**

**Foreign news**

**Tabloid news**

**Sports news**

**Arts**

**Editorial and opinion**

**Features**

**Product placement and ‘advertorial’**

**Examples of bias**

**New media, blogs**