



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# **ARTS3097**

Current Debates in Media and Culture

Term One // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Rodney Wallis	r.wallis@unsw.edu.au	Mondays 11 - 11:50 a.m		

### School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

## Course Details

### Credit Points 6

### Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Media, Culture and Technology*

Media are centrally implicated in our lives – both public and private. From election campaigns to radicalisation; from transnational personal relationships to gaming; from the constitution of the global economy to online dating; media technologies play a crucial role. They have the potential to create social and political change as well as to disrupt personal lives in ways unimaginable a decade or so ago.

In this course you will examine current, ‘live’ topics in media, using relevant concepts and frameworks to investigate and understand present-day media-related issues. During the course, you will be encouraged to capture and study media-related events and developments as they unfold. At the beginning of the semester three to four significant, exemplary, on-going topics, news stories, or developments involving the media will be chosen. The rest of the semester, including lectures and tutorial readings and discussions, will be organised around two to three broad themes that are based on the chosen topics.

The key focus will be on the application of relevant theories, frameworks and concepts on these topics, and an exploration of appropriate methodologies for their analysis. The topics covered could include, for instance, digital media affordances, political communication as public strategy, online radicalisation, social media use and counter-publics, the political economy of IT industries, or surveillance and security, covering the themes of media in the *public* domain and media in the *private* domain, as well as the intersections of the two. The methodologies discussed could, in turn, include textual analysis and deconstruction, auto-ethnography, and conjunctural analysis. The emphasis will be on situating media analysis and theory within broader socio-cultural and political contexts.

### Course Learning Outcomes

1. articulate their understanding of the role of the media in contemporary life.
2. deploy appropriate concepts and methodologies for analysing diverse media and their impact on different social, cultural and/or political contexts.
3. employ independent learning and self-directed research activity and display intellectual rigour in their analysis and reporting of media’s role in contemporary cultures.
4. engage in collaborative discussion and debate in a way that reflects the complexities of current socio-cultural and political formations and the media’s impact on them.

### Teaching Strategies

Students will explore the important role that media and media technologies continue to play in various aspects of our lives, in part through lectures that will include a significant interactive component during which students will be encouraged to come up with instances from their own media use that exemplify concepts and debates discussed in the lecture; in part through their reflexive engagement with the tutorial readings, brief summaries of which, along with appropriate examples, they are expected to bring to class; and in part through discussions, with peers and with tutors, in tutorials that will help them understand better how to apply concepts and theories, and also what methods to use for analysing the content of media as well as the production and use of media and communication technologies and their relations with broader social, political, and cultural contexts. Significantly, the examples used in lectures

and in tutorials will be current and topical – ‘live’ – using the technologies available in lecture and tutorial spaces, which will allow students to reflect on and develop an intellectual engagement with both their own media use and the media’s implication in broader, public issues.

The final assignment, involving some research extending out from the course materials into an example involving media, communications and information technologies and their impact on broader social, political and cultural issues, will allow students to develop their independent learning and to explore an issue of their own choosing with some rigour.

This course is designed to allow students to build on their foundational concepts in gateway courses and on their previous development of skills in collaboration and research at level 2. Students will develop both their collaborative and their self-directed and independent learning to higher levels, along with a theoretical and practical understanding of the role of media in contemporary life.

## Assessment

### Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Short Essay	35%	16/03/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3
Class presentation	15%	Not Applicable	1,2,3,4
Case study	50%	27/04/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Short Essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** Students will submit a 1000 word reflective piece on a topic pertaining to media technologies in the private domain. A marking sheet with written comments and mark will be provided via Turnitin.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

#### Assessment 2: Class presentation

**Start date:** Week 9 tutorials

**Details:** Students will make individual presentations of about 5-7 minutes each on their topic for the Case Study. This will occur in a tutorial class later in the semester. This task is closely scaffolded to the Case Study and encourages students to put forward an argument in verbal form. A marking sheet with written comments and mark will be provided.

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

#### Assessment 3: Case study

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** Students will submit a 2000 word essay on a topic pertaining to the media technologies in the public domain. This is the final assessment task. Each assignment will be given a numerical mark and a grade.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to attend all lectures, and tutorials are compulsory. Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% of all the tutorials. This requirement is related to all the Learning Outcomes, especially Outcomes 1 and 4.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Lecture	Current debates: truth and democracy, media publics, transnational mobilities, digital activism
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Lecture	The alt-truth shall set us free? Post-truth, public knowledge, citizenship
	Tutorial	Contemporary life as a media experience
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Digital intimacies - is the private now public?
	Tutorial	Digital audiences and filter bubbles
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Social media and violence
	Tutorial	Networked alliances, online relationships
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Lecture	The Global South - distant and proximate suffering
	Tutorial	Trolling and terror
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Precarious lives - humanitarian communication
	Tutorial	Bearing witness
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Emotions, activism and socio-political change
	Tutorial	Transnational publics and the communitarian imagination
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	Who made my iPhone? Transnational digital labour
	Tutorial	A digital media public sphere?
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	The media r us – revisiting the debates
	Tutorial	Assignment – class presentations

## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

Weekly readings for tutorials will be uploaded on Moodle.

### **Recommended Resources**

### **Course Evaluation and Development**

## **Submission of Assessment Tasks**

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### **Turnitin Submission**

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au) . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>



## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

**Copying:** using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

**Inappropriate paraphrasing:** Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

**Collusion:** working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

**Inappropriate citation:** Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

**Duplication ("self-plagiarism"):** submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

## **Academic Information**

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

## **Image Credit**

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