



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



## **MDIA5007**

Media Ethics and Law

Term One // 2019

## Course Overview

### Staff Contact Details

#### Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Kerrie Davies	<a href="mailto:k.davies@unsw.edu.au">k.davies@unsw.edu.au</a>	TBA	RW 311C	

#### Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Deborah Telford	<a href="mailto:sam@unsw.edu.au">sam@unsw.edu.au</a>	in class or via email		

### School Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: [sam@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sam@unsw.edu.au)

Website: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au>

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**

In this course you will develop an understanding of the legal and ethical issues that frame media production and consumption. You will work through a series of case studies that highlight these issues and their implications for professional practice and public policy. Topics examined in this course include media content regulation, freedom of speech, the social and health effects of media consumption, privacy, and journalistic ethics.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify key legal and ethical issues relevant to the media
2. Critically analyse and apply ethical and legal frameworks relevant to media in Australian and international contexts
3. Incorporate ethical practice into their work in the media
4. Develop their own frameworks for continued learning about media law and ethics

### **Teaching Strategies**

This course will be taught face to face in a two-hour lecture each week with a strong emphasis on student participation in the process of learning. Students will be actively engaged in solving problems posed by the lecturer and fellow students. Student learning will be enhanced by the use of case studies and assessment tasks. Students will work individually and in small groups on a variety of tasks. Questions are welcome during lectures. Brief lecture notes (PowerPoint slides) will be posted on the Learning Management System just before each lecture. They are intended to help you follow the lecture rather than replacing attendance at the lecture itself.

Students are expected to participate in a range of discussions and practical exercises and to assist each other through their contributions in class presentations. Lectures are run more like tutorials. They require students to accept responsibility for their own learning and the learning of others through active participation and engagement with both the subject materials and ongoing discussions in class.

All students are expected to engage on a daily basis with the current affairs and news, across different media platforms. Listening for current ethical and legal issues for the media will prepare students for participation in class discussions as well as develop their overall media, legal and ethical literacy.

## Assessment

### Late Submission

If your assignment is submitted after the due date, a penalty of 5% per day (including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays) will be imposed. For more information on submission of late work, consult the FASS assessment protocols at <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

Note: Your tutor cannot give you extensions. Apply through [special consideration](#) with the relevant documentation. Student Central must verify all documentation.

*All assignments will be put through TURNITIN. Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism, is regarded as a serious breach of ethical conduct and will be referred to the School of Arts and Media's Grievance officer.*

### Referencing:

[Harvard referencing is preferred.](#)

## Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major Essay	45%	26/04/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4
In-class test	15%	See Moodle	1,2
Comment Piece and Class Presentation	40%	Weekly Presentations	1,2,3,4

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Major Essay

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2500 words

**Details:** 2500 words, consisting of proposal and essay; the proposal will be approx. 300 words. Feedback provided via Learning Management System.

### Additional details:

See Moodle for full assessment information.

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

similarity reports.

## **Assessment 2: In-class test**

**Start date:**

**Details:** In-class written exercise. Verbal and written feedback (via marking rubric) will be provided.

**Additional details:**

You will need a wifi connected device to complete the inclass test which will be online via Moodle. Please advise your tutor before the date of the test if you need a paper copy.

It will not be 'written' but multiple choice. Please ignore 'written test' above.

## **Assessment 3: Comment Piece and Class Presentation**

**Start date:**

**Length:** 1500 words

**Details:** This portfolio involves a 1500 word written report on a key aspect of media ethics and law, plus a ten minute oral presentation. Verbal feedback provided for presentation, written feedback provided for comment piece.

**Additional details:**

Your ten minute oral presentation will be in class on a designated week.

The presentations will form debates, with each participant choosing a discussion point around a topic, referring to readings.

The accompanying report will be submitted a maximum of two weeks after your presentation. See Moodle for full information.

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

## Attendance Requirements

Students must attend 80 % of the course seminars. The third or more missed seminar requires a medical certificate or equivalent.

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 18 February - 24 February	Seminar	<p><b>Introduction and overview Media Systems, Legal Systems</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b> Please ensure you have access to the textbook: Pearson, M and Polden, M 2019 <i>The Journalist's Guide to Media Law</i>, Sydney, A &amp; U available at the UNSW bookshop. Other readings are available via Moodle. Look for the green jigsaw icon under 'Readings'.</p> <p><b>Textbook reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 3: Legal and Regulatory Systems and Principles, pp. 64 - 96</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 2: 25 February - 3 March	Seminar	<p><b>Ethics</b></p> <p><b>Readings via Moodle</b></p> <p>Sim, M 2010 'Rethinking Virtue Ethics and Social Justice with Aristotle and Confucius', <i>Asian Philosophy</i>, Vol 20, No. 2 pp.195 -213</p> <p>Goc, N &amp; Tynan, L 2015 'Ethics in Communication', in J Bainbridge, N Goc and L Tynan (eds), <i>Media and Communication</i>, OUP, Melbourne, pp. 382 - 404</p> <p>Ward, S n.d <a href="#">What is Global Media Ethics? Center for Journalism Media Ethics</a>, University of Wisconsin-Madison</p> <p>See Moodle for further recommended readings.</p>
Week 3: 4 March - 10 March	Seminar	<p><b>Contempt</b></p>

		<p><b>Textbook Reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 5: Contempt of Court, pp.134 - 181</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 4: 11 March - 17 March	Seminar	<p><b>Confidentiality and Privacy</b></p> <p><b>Textbook Reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 9: Keeping Secrets: Confidentiality and Sources, pp. 311 -353</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 5: 18 March - 24 March	Seminar	<p><b>Defamation</b></p> <p><b>Textbook Reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 8: Defending Defamation, pp. 257 - 308</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 6: 25 March - 31 March	Seminar	<p><b>Free Speech and Hate Laws</b></p> <p><b>Textbook Reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 10: Anti Terrorism and Hate Laws, pp. 353 - 397</p> <p><b>From Moodle</b> Goc, N 2015 'Free Speech and Journalism in the 21st Century', in J Bainbridge, N Goc &amp; L Tynan (eds) <i>Media and Journalism</i>, OUP, Melbourne, pp. 485 - 491</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 7: 1 April - 7 April	Seminar	<p><b>Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship</b></p> <p><b>Textbook Reading (Pearson and Polden 2019)</b> Chapter 11: Intellectual Property: Protecting your work and using the work of others, pp. 401 - 445</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended readings.</p>
Week 8: 8 April - 14 April	Seminar	<p><b>Creative Media and the Law: Telling People's Stories</b></p> <p><b>Readings From Moodle</b> 'Telling People's Stories on Film', Arts Law Centre of Australia</p>

	Assessment	<p><b>Online Multiple Choice Quiz via Moodle in class</b></p> <p>No oral presentations this week due to the online quiz via Moodle in class. If you are away for this quiz, you will given 0 for this assessment unless special consideration is given.</p>
Week 9: 15 April - 21 April	Seminar	<p><b>Regulating Fake News</b></p> <p><b>Reading from Moodle</b>  Andorfer, A 2018 'Spreading Like Wildfire: Solutions for Abating the Fake News Problem via Technology Controls and Government Regulation', <i>Hastings Law Journal</i>, Vol.69 n.5, pp.1401 - 1431</p> <p>See Moodle for recommended reading.</p>
Week 10: 22 April - 28 April	Reading	<p>Due to Easter Monday, there are <b>NO Classes</b>. This is your <b>READING WEEK</b>. Not quite a holiday, however, as your Major Assessment is due <b>FRIDAY April 26</b> .</p>
	Assessment	<p>Major Essay due <b>FRIDAY APRIL 26, MIDNIGHT</b>.</p>



## Resources

### Prescribed Resources

The course textbook is Pearson M, & Polden, M 2019 *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law*, A and U, Sydney.

Other readings are available via the UNSW Library link on Moodle under 'Readings'.

The library currently has an older edition but the 2019 edition has been ordered for High Demand use.

### Recommended Resources

The course readings also have recommended readings. These are particularly useful if you are focussing on a week's topic as your presentation debate or your major essay. They are not meant to be a substitute for your own research, rather a starting point.

The recommended citation style is [Harvard](#). APA is also accepted. Be consistent; use ONE citation style only.

*Media Watch*, available via ABCiview is an excellent source of current ethical issues in the media with an Australian focus. There are archived episodes online.

*The Guardian* is a free, excellent news resource for ongoing media law related court cases.

The UNSW library offers free access to recent major media in print and digital editions. Archives are available via the factiva.com database.

### UNSW Academic Skills

[Writing](#)

### Other UNSW resources for language and well being

[English Language and Conversation Skills](#)

[Student Health and Well Being](#)

### Course Evaluation and Development

The course is evaluated via My Experience at the end of trimester. We've redesigned the course to fit with the new scheduling pattern and to reflect current debates in media and ethics with theoretical frameworks.

## **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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