MDIA5007

Media Ethics and Law

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Kerrie Davies	k.davies@unsw.edu.au	TBA	RW 311C	

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Room 312, Level 3, Robert Webster Building (G14)

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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

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-and-a-half 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 Greviance officer.

Referencing:

Harvard referencing is preferred.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major Essay	45%	25/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
In-class test	15%	Week 7	1, 2
Comment Piece and Class Presentation	40%	05/04/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Major Essay

Length: 2500 words min (including proposal)

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 and instructions as well as in class. Note: The proposal will

take the form of an abstract (summary) at the top of your essay when submitting, and is minimum 150 words, maximum 300 words. The total essay including proposal / abstract is 2500 words minimum; 2800 words max.

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

Assessment 2: In-class test

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: Maximum tutorial time (2.5 hours)

Details:

In-class written exercise.

Verbal and written feedback (via marking rubric) will be provided.

Additional details:

The test will be a written response to a set question. Open book, but must be submitted by the end of the tutorial.

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

Assessment 3: Comment Piece and Class Presentation

Length: 1500 words (report / essay) plus THREE minute video replacing the in class presentation

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:

REPLACING the oral class presentation: a three minute video to be submitted online (one drive or Moodle dropbox - see Moodle for more info). The video is ten percent of your month. This is ten percent of your mark for this assessment. The video will creatively and critically discuss the chosen topic.

Additionally, a report (essay no. 1) is 30 percent of the total mark for this assessment. The report, on the

same topic as the video. requires academic referencing and conventions**.**

Both the video and report (essay No. 1) are due at the same time.

Submission notes: Report (Essay no.1) via Turnitin. NOTE CHANGE DUE TO ONLINE: Three minute video to be submitted via One Drive or Moodle Dropbox. This replaces the in class oral presentation due to online challenges.

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

Attendance Requirements

Students are required to attend 80 % of class.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Seminar	**Misinformation and Disinformation** **Introduction to the course.** **Readings** Refer to Moodle and the section 'Readings' (the green jigsaw icon), for access to readings for this week and additional readings to the textbook in future weeks. You do not need the textbook for week 1. Please ensure you have access to the textbook: Pearson, M. and Polden, M. 2019 *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law,* Sydney, A & U available at the UNSW bookshop. Other readings are available via Moodle. Look for the green jigsaw icon under 'Readings'. A copy will also be available in the library on high demand. Please email me if you are having difficulties accessing a textbook.
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Seminar	**Health law and ethics in the contemporary media environment** **Refer to Moodle for readings.**
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Seminar	**Reporting hate in the contemporary media environment.** **Refer to Moodle for Readings.** ***Note: you need the textbook (Pearson and Polden 2019) by this week.***
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Seminar	**Contempt in a global media environment** **Textbook required - see Moodle.** **See Moodle for additional readings.**
Week 5: 15 March - 19	Seminar	**Intellectual Property law, news and creative**

March		**media**
		Textbook required; see Moodle. Also see Moodle for further online readings.
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	Reading Week.
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Assessment	**In class written test - see Moodle for details.**
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Assessment	Due to the public holiday of Easter Monday, please use this time to submit your video presentation and report (essay no. 1) by Monday Midnight 5 April. Please submit before if you are going away for Easter. See Moodle for instructions.
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Seminar	**Privacy in contemporary media** **Readings via Textbook and Moodle**
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Assessment	**Essay workshops**

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The course textbook is Pearson M, & Polden, M 2019 *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law,* A and U, Sydney.
The library has a copy on High Demand use.

Also see Library Readings on Moodle, accessed via Moodle.

The library offers access to main news sites via subscription or factiva.com

International social media is accepted with translations.

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 video and report (essay no. 1), and your major essay (set topic question).
The recommended citation style is Harvard. APA is also accepted. Be consistent; use ONE citation style only.
The UNSW library offers free access to recent major media in print and digital editions. Archives are available via the factiva.com database.

International context and comparisons of media law and ethics are encouraged.

If you are having difficulty accessing any resources, please see your tutor or the convenor (Kerrie Davies).

UNSW Support
Writing

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

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 . 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/

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CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.