MDIA1004

News Fundamentals

Term Two // 2021

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Kerrie Davies	k.davies@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Robert Webster 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

Whether you are a journalist, media advisor or content producer, written and audio news skills are highly valued. News informs every area of media, from breaking news, crime, sports, politics, business, science and health to fashion, entertainment, the arts, technology and social media virality. You'll develop skills in online and audio news production including news research, interviewing, editing and social media research to produce an original story for your portfolio.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Understand and apply industry requirements for journalistic skills and attributes
2. Critically evaluate journalistic news reporting practices and the communicative functionality of news reporting texts
3. Enact the social relationships and interactions involved in the news gathering and filtering process
4. Apply skills in conceiving, researching and producing news reports across a range of different journalistic contexts

Teaching Strategies

This course comprises a 1 x 90 minute lecture and 1 x 2.5 hour tutorial each week, including collaborative and individual work.

Assessment

The exam will be take home open book. You will have 24 hours to complete it.

Tutorials are compulsory. Only two can be missed. Please see the convenor or your tutor if you are unsure. Special consideration required in cases of more than two absences. **Please note they are 2.5 hours and will be online. Access via Collaborate links on Moodle.**

Special consideration via myunsw.edu.au is required for any late assessments, otherwise it is 5 % per day. Plagiarism will be referred to the School's ethics officer.

Consulting hours will be available outside tutorial times - email Kerrie k.davies@unsw.edu.au for a time to arrange a virtual meeting if you need help with the course.

Lectures will be live, interactive, and sometimes have writing exercises, just like as if we were on campus. You'll be invited to share news links, ask questions and comment via the chat area or you can use your mic to talk and ask questions.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Original news story production	25%	06/08/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 4
Writing and research task	25%	04/07/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4
Final exam	50%	TBA	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Original news story production

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Length/duration: 700 words or three to four minutes.

Students produce an original written or audio news story in response to a brief given in class.

Percentage: 25 %

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

The assessment will be either a text based news story with original interview and photo (original or creative commons); or optionally, an audio podcast production with original interview and photo related

to the brief given in class.

Submission notes: in class

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Writing and research task

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1800 words (total three parts)

Details:

1800 words

Students develop a research and writing task package, comprising 2 x News Stories and 1 x short academic reflection based on supplied material and course readings.

Percentage: 25 %

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

Research topic assigned in class.

Submission notes: Submission via Moodle

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

Assessment 3: Final exam

Details:

2-hour practical / applied knowledge exam

50 %

Feedback via LMS

Additional details:

The exam will be online in the formal central exam period. You will be notified of your exam time via your exam timetable.

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

Attendance Requirements

Students must attend 80 % of tutorials to meet attendance requirements of this course.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	***Introduction to the course and news writing as a translatable media skill*** *Note tutorials are held this week BEFORE the lecture as well as after.* *Readings: Refer to Moodle.* *Note the lecture content does not necessarily align with tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	**Yes, tutorials start this week!** ***Practical*** *tutorials - BYO device to class if in person. A phone note app, a tablet or laptop or vintage notepad and pen are all ok.* *Check if you are online or in person!* *If you have registered for in person attendance, you are expected to attend in person class. Check your timetable.* *Lecture content does not necessarily relate to the week's tutorial - as tutorials run before the lecture.*
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	***Audio News and Podcasts*** ***Readings: See Moodle*** *Lecture content does not necessarily relate to the week's tutorial - as tutorials run before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	***News Writing Analysis workshop and mobile media*** ***Practical*** *tutorials - BYO device to class if in person. A phone note app, a tablet or laptop or vintage notepad and pen are all ok.*

		Check if you are online or in person! **Lectures don't correspond to tutorials in same week.**
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	***New Media and Narrative news styles including live blogging*** ***Readings: Refer to Moodle*** *Note the lecture content does not necessarily correspond to tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	***Audio Skills workshop*** ***Practical** tutorials - BYO device to class if in person. A phone note app, a tablet or laptop or vintage notepad and pen are all ok.* *Check if you are online or in person!* *Some classes are 'dual mode' - but if you have registered for in person attendance, you are expected to attend in person class. Check your timetable.* *Lecture content does not necessarily relate to the week's tutorial - as tutorials run before the lecture.*
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	***Social media as News and Social media Strategy*** *Brief for First Assessment in this lecture* ***Readings: Refer to Moodle*** *Note the lecture content does not correspond to tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	***New media and narrative news media workshop: text and audio styles*** ***Practical tutorials** ☐ BYO device to class if in person. A phone note app, a tablet or laptop or vintage notepad and pen are all ok.* *Check if you are online or in person!* *Some classes are 'dual mode' - but if you have registered for in person attendance, you are*

		expected to attend in person class. Check your timetable. *Lecture content does not necessarily relate to the week's tutorial - as tutorials run before the lecture.*
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	***Researching original story ideas*** *Brief for original story production package* ***Readings : Refer to Moodle*** *Note the lecture does content not necessarily correspond to tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	***Social media strategy news media workshop*** *Practical tutorials - BYO device to class if in person. A phone note app, a tablet or laptop or vintage notepad and pen are all ok.* *Lecture content does not necessarily relate to the week's tutorial - as tutorials run before the lecture.*
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Reading	
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Tutorial	**Original story idea pitch feedback**
	Lecture	***lecture: interviewing and opinion traps*** ***Readings: Refer to Moodle.*** *Note the lecture does content not necessarily correspond to tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	***Legal Issues for news media communicators and social media managers: Contempt, Defamation, Copyright.*** ***Readings: Refer to Moodle.*** *Note: lecture content and tutorial content do not correspond to the same week.*
	Tutorial	***Workshop Interviewing*** *Lecture content does not correspond to tutorial*

		content in the same week.
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	***Online Lecture: Constructive Journalism versus Spin*** ***Readings***: *Refer to Moodle.* *Note the lecture content does not necessarily correspond to tutorial content in the same week; as tutorials are running before the lecture.*
	Tutorial	***Legal Issue Story Workshops*** *Original Story Production check-in.*
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	**Revision and Exam preparation**
	Tutorial	***Editing Workshops ☐ Original Story Production***

Resources

Prescribed Resources

TEXTBOOK:

The New News (Tassel, Murphy & Schmitz 2020)
available via the UNSW bookshop / Vital Source LInk - see Moodle for link.

If you are producing audio, AUDACITY is a free online audio editing software or the more advanced AUDITION is accessible via ADOBE Creative Cloud on the University lab computers.

Recommended Resources

The course requires both national and international current affairs knowledge which usually informs the exam. It is recommended students read widely across Australian and international news and current affairs platforms.

If you are studying overseas, the UNSW China Students Access Network, have 'whitelisted' a number of Australian news sites.

Suggested free news sites:
ABCivew news channel: 7.30 report and evening news
abc.net.au for online news.
ABC Radio National / Triple J / ABC Sydney Radio
The Project: Network 10
sbs.com.au / news
The Guardian theguardian.com/au
US Politics The Late Show with Stephen Colbert (via YouTube); cnn.com; Late Night with Seth Meyers (via YouTube); John Oliver

Limited free viewing - available via UNSW library.
The Sydney Morning Herald smh.com.au
The New York Times nytimes.com

English language Hong Kong and China: *The South China Morning Post* scmp.com

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback throughout the course is welcome as well as in 'my experience' surveys. We encourage you to let us know you are struggling or experiencing difficulties with online tutorials at the time, rather than waiting until the end of the course.

The course has evolved from traditional news reporting to include the new media expectations of

narrative news, social media reporting, mobile journalism and has a greater focus on radio writing. This year we are adapting the exam for online and also offering the opportunity to produce audio as your major assignment.

As MDIA1002 focuses on traditional news writing skills, this skill is only briefly covered in this course. To assist students who have not previously studied news writing, we encourage you to access revision resources on Moodle and to make an appointment with the course convener (K.davies@unsw.edu.au).

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

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Acknowledgement of Country

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