



Australia's
Global
University



MDIA1004

News Fundamentals

Term Two // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Kerrie Davies	k.davies@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Robert Webster 311C	

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Jane Southward	j.southward@unsw.edu.au	via email		

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*

This course develops skills in the practice of news reporting as it operates widely across different domains of journalism. You will develop skills not only in the reporting of current-affairs news as traditionally undertaken by legacy newspapers and broadcast news departments, but also in the reporting of news in lifestyle and new media journalism. The course will focus on skills associated with all stages of the news reporting process, and you will develop your knowledge of how potential news items are selected, how journalists manage relationship with “contacts” and how they conduct interviews. Obviously there will also be a focus on news writing itself – the verbal styles and structures employed in news reporting of different types, and the skills required to distill sometimes complex material into a form which will attract and hold the attention of casual readers. Basic photojournalistic and radio skills will also be covered.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

The lecture time will be devoted to outlining and discussing the various stages of the news reporting process and to a detailed exploration of the different types of news report and their stylistic and text compositional properties. The tutorials will be devoted to exercises and discussion designed to develop students' practical skills in conceiving, researching and writing news, and in critically evaluating and deconstructing their own and other's work.

Teaching Strategies:

This course uses face-to-face classroom teaching, with 1 x 90 minute lecture and 1 x 2.5 hour tutorial each week, including collaborative and individual work. For the most part, materials required for tutorial preparation and for assessment tasks will be made available via the course Learning Management System.

Assessment

The exam will be drawn from current affairs, information from lectures and tutorial activities. Ensure you attend the lectures where possible to ask questions and participate in workshop activities in the lecture.

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.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
News production package	25%	10/07/2019 11:59 PM	1,2,3,4
Tutorial Tasks	25%	See Moodle	1,2,3,4
Final exam	50%	TBA by exam timetabling	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: News production package

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 600 - 700 words

Details: 600 – 700 words submitted via Moodle. Graded via assessment criteria, written feedback via LMS.

Additional details:

600 to 700 words. Topic assigned in class. Original photo. Minimum two interviews, plus evidence of supplementary research.

Narrative or traditional news style journalism.

Submission notes: Submission via Moodle

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

Assessment 2: Tutorial Tasks .

Start date: Weekly.

Details: Weekly tutorial tasks equivalent to 3000 words.

Two of the tutorial tasks are submitted to Moodle assessments (12.5 % each) and submitted in class. These tutorial tasks are graded against a set of criteria, written commentary on work provided.

Additional details:

SIX posts produced and submitted in class unless otherwise directed, including the two assessed for marking - see Moodle. Less than six detracts five marks per missing blog from your final assessment mark.

Submission notes: See Moodle.

Assessment 3: Final exam

Start date: TBA via central exam timetabling.

Details: 2 hour exam. This is the final assessment task. Exam is graded, with work assessed against a set of criteria.

Additional details:

Exam date To Be Advised.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 3 June - 7 June	Lecture	Introduction to the Course and Intro to Narrative News. Before lecture reading: Refer to Moodle. Tutorial & Readings Refer to Moodle.
Week 2: 10 June - 14 June	Tutorial	<i>No lecture due to Queen's Birthday Weekend. No Monday tutorials due to Queen's Birthday Weekend. Please come to TUESDAY tutorials and WEDNESDAY.</i> Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorials: Story Research: The Future of Work.
Week 3: 17 June - 21 June	Lecture	Lecture: Interviewing Readings Refer to Moodle Tutorial: Pitch your story idea for your assessment story The Future of Work.
Week 4: 24 June - 28 June	Lecture	Lecture: Writing from Press Releases: Recognising Spin Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorial: Practicing for In class Assessment Week 6

Week 5: 1 July - 5 July	Lecture	<p>Lecture: Ethical Theories and News</p> <p>Readings Refer to Moodle</p> <p>Tutorial Write a story from a press release supplied and additional research. Due: BY THE END OF TUTORIAL. The press release will be supplied in your tutorial.</p>
Week 6: 8 July - 12 July	Reading	Assessment Due.10 JULY 2019. 11.59pm
Week 7: 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	<p>Lecture: Introduction to Radio Writing and Podcasts</p> <p>Readings Refer to Moodle.</p> <p>Tutorial Radio writing script practice and narration using zoom recorders.</p>
Week 8: 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	<p>Lecture: Court Reporting Contempt and Defamation</p> <p>Readings See Moodle.</p> <p>Tutorial: Court writing practice ahead of in class assessment.</p>
Week 9: 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	<p>Lecture: Satire, news and fake news</p> <p>Readings See Moodle</p> <p>Tutorial Court reporting assessment in class . Due by the end of your tutorial.</p>
Week 10: 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	Lecture Mobile / Backpack Journalism: Breaking and revision of radio story writing

		<p>Readings</p> <p>Tutorial: Radio Writing practice and Mobile Journalism kits</p> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Week 11: 12 August - 16 August</p>	<p>Lecture</p>	<p>Lecture Exam Revision</p> <p>No tutorials.</p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

No Textbook

Readings are available from the library course readings icon via Moodle.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

If you have not completed MDIA 1002 Media Industry Contexts, or do not feel comfortable with traditional news writing (inverted pyramid) we highly recommend the textbook Lambie, Stephen (2015) *News As It Happens*, Melbourne: Oxford University Publishing , available from the University bookshop.

Audio zoom recorders and mobile journalism kits can be borrowed from the Technical Resource Centre, Robert Webster Building. You do not need to buy anything for this class.

You also will be introduced to basic editing software available via the labs.

Recommended Resources

Refer to Moodle for news writing exercises and other resources. See 'resources'.

The course requires both national and international current affairs knowledge that will form part of the exam. It is recommended students read widely across Australian and international news and current affairs platforms.

Suggested free news sites:

ABCivew news channel: 7.30 report and evening news

abc.net.au: online news

ABC radio national / triple J / ABC Sydney Radio

The Project: Network 10

sbs.com.au / news

Buzzfeed.com / news (Australian site)

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:

smh.com.au

nytimes.com

scmap.com

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback throughout the course is welcome as well as in 'my experience' surveys.

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. As MDIA 1002 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 are including resources on Moodle and we encourage you to make an appointment with the course convenor (K.Jarvis@unsw.edu.au) or see

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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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