



Australia's
Global
University



MDIA1004

News Fundamentals

Term Two // 2020

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
John Burfitt	j.burfitt@unsw.edu.au	in class - please see convenor Kerrie Davies for appointments outside class time	via email	

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Website: www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam

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 and sports news as traditionally undertaken by newspapers and broadcast news departments, but also in the reporting of news in, for example, music, arts, travel, fashion and motoring 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 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 90 minute tutorial each week, including collaborative and individual work. Students prepare readings, discussion points and exercises in advance of each tutorial. For the most part, materials required for tutorial preparation and for assessment tasks will be made available via the course's Learning Management System.

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
Writing and Research Task	25%	05/07/2020 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4
News production package	25%	31/07/2019 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Open Book Take Home Exam	50%	TBA	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Writing and Research Task

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1800 words

Details:

Submission via Moodle.

Writing and Research task based on current news events.

Additional details:

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

Assessment 2: News production package

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 600 - 700 words or four to five minute audio

Details:

Original news production package, 600 – 700 words submitted OR four to five-minute radio news package via Moodle.

Graded via assessment criteria, written feedback via LMS.

Additional details:

Topic assigned in class.

Original photo required.

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 3: Open Book Take Home Exam

Start date: TBA

Details:

The exam will be a take home open book exam that will involve practice based writing tasks, applied knowledge and research. Specific information to be given in class.

The exam will be scheduled in Week 11. A 24 hour time period will be given to complete the exam.

Additional details:

Exam date To Be Advised.

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: 1 June - 5 June	Lecture	Introduction to the course. <i>Interactive Lecture online via Collaborate: refer to Moodle to join the link.</i> Lectures will be live, interactive, and sometimes have writing exercises. You'll be invited to share news links, ask questions and comment.
	Tutorial	<i>All tutorials will be run via Collaborate. Join your tutorial via Collaborate. Do not swap your tutorials around - you will be marked absent.</i>
Week 2: 8 June - 12 June	Lecture	Lecture change this week only to TUESDAY 10am due to Queen's Birthday public holiday. Optional attendance: News writing: revision of traditional news style and interviewing 101. <i>Join the lecture via the Collaborate link on Moodle.</i> The lecture is recommended especially for those who haven't completed MDIA1002 Media Industries Context (Last term) or do not feel comfortable with news writing and interviewing basics. The majority of the course will be spent learning other news styles for narrative and radio building on the traditional news style and structure. Readings: Refer to Moodle
	Tutorial	MONDAY tutorials - please join the THURSDAY or FRIDAY tutorials as there is no MONDAY tutorial due to the Queen's Birthday weekend. The tutorial emphasis will be different to the lecture. See Moodle for tutorial reading. <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle.</i>

Week 3: 15 June - 19 June	Lecture	Online Lecture: Narrative news <i>Join via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i> Readings Refer to Moodle
	Tutorial	Narrative news writing practice. <i>Join your tutorial via Collaborate link on Moodle.</i>
Week 4: 22 June - 26 June	Lecture	Online lecture: The untold story: Researching Brief for original story production package <i>Join via Collaborate link on Moodle.</i> Readings Refer to Moodle
	Tutorial	Original story research and brainstorming. <i>Join via Collaborate on Moodle.</i>
Week 5: 29 June - 3 July	Lecture	Online Lecture: Introduction to news radio writing and interviewing cuts <i>Join lecture via Collaborate link on Moodle.</i> Readings Refer to Moodle.
	Tutorial	Original story idea pitch feedback <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i> <i>Research Assessment Due.</i>
Week 6: 6 July - 10 July	Reading	
Week 7: 13 July - 17 July	Lecture	Online lecture: interviewing and opinion traps <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle.</i> Readings Refer to Moodle.

	Tutorial	News radio writing and Interview cuts practice. <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i>
Week 8: 20 July - 24 July	Lecture	Online Lecture: Editing and subbing <i>Join via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i> Readings Refer to Moodle.
	Tutorial	Editing workshops. Original Story Production check-in. <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i>
Week 9: 27 July - 31 July	Lecture	Online Lecture: Media and the law, aka how not to end up with a criminal record or be sued <i>Join via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i> <i>Note media law will feature in the exam.</i> Reading See Moodle
	Tutorial	Media and the law: applied knowledge writing practice <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i>
Week 10: 3 August - 7 August	Lecture	Online Lecture: Revision and exam preparation <i>Join via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i>
	Tutorial	Revision and writing style practice <i>Join your tutorial via the Collaborate link on Moodle</i>
Week 11: 10 August - 10 August	Assessment	The 24 hour take home EXAM will be held this week. Details TBA.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Recommended Textbook.

An Ebook should be available to borrow via UNSW library. We do not expect you to buy this textbook. However, if you would like to purchase it, the textbook is available via the [UNSW bookshop](#).

Trujillo, T (2018). *Writing and Reporting News You Can Use*. Oxon.: Routledge.

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

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.

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/>

Image Credit

Negative Space via Pexel Creative Commons licence.

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.