MDIA1004

News Fundamentals

Semester Two // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Rose-Anne Manns	rmanns@unsw.edu.au	via email		
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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.

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; 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/

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.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

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

Tutorial tasks range from current affair quizzes and exercises, submitted to your WIKI, to two prepared writing tasks that will be formally submitted via Moodle, comprising 12.5 % each. See Moodle for the submission links and more information. **The 48 hours deadline is encouraged for time management.**

The actual deadline is by END OF CLASS or, for the two specific marked tutorial assignments, 24 hours later via Moodle.The news story can be written in either narrative news or hard news style. Revision of news writing styles is in lecture 1 and the first tutorial (week 2).

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

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
News production package	25%	01/10/2018 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Tutorial Preparation	25%	Weekly	1,2,3,4
Final exam	50%	UNSW timetable	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: News production package

Start date:

Length: 600 - 800 words

Details: News package production task, equivalent to 600 – 800 words.Graded against a set of assessment criteria; written commentary on package.

Submission notes: Via Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Tutorial Preparation

Start date:

Details: Multiple tasks. Equivalent to 4000 words. Submitted to Moodle at least 48 hours in advance of the tutorial. For assessment you must complete a minimum of eight tute preps, four of which are compulsory. Feedback will be provided via discussion and additional work carried out during tutorials. Students will receive a numerical mark for two or three preparation tasks. This will be the source of the mark out of 25 received for this component of the course. Work is graded against a set of criteria; written commentary on work provided.

Additional details:

The 48 hour deadline is recommended for time management and maximum feedback in class. Feedback for all work except the two specific tasks submitted to Moodle for marking will be in class.

All tasks must be completed by the end of class, or for the two tasks that are marked (12.5 % each) 24 hours later to Moodle. Refer to the schedule for more information.

Submission notes: In class via Wiki or Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Final exam

Start date: Not Applicable

Details: 3 hour exam. This is the final assessment task.Exam is graded, with work assessed against a set of criteria.

Additional details:

Please see UNSW exam adjustments for information if required.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

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.

Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending of the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

Task with a non–percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore 17 – [25 (0.05 x 3)] = 13.25

Task with a percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore 68 – 15 = 53

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:
https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

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)

Course Schedule

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 23 July - 29 July	Lecture	**Introduction to the Course and News Writing Revision** **Before lecture reading:** Lamble, S. (2016). Writing News for Print. *News As It Happens*. Melbourne: OUP, pp. 137 -152. Lamble, S. (2016). Writing News for Online and Portable Devices. *News As It Happens.* Melbourne: OUP, pp. 166 -180. There are NO tutorials this week. Tutorials start Week 2.
Week 2: 30 July - 5 August		**Lecture: Researching Stories: Reactive and Proactive Reporting** **Before lecture reading** Lamble, S. (2016). Journalism Research. *News as it Happens*. Melbourne: OUP, pp. 97 - 120. Poletti, J. (2012) The Twitterisation of Investigative Reporting. In S.Tanner & N.Richardson *Journalism Research and Investigation in a Digital World* (pp. 88 - 102). Melbourne: OUP. **Tutorial 1. Task 1:** Current Affairs Quiz via Moodle.
Week 3: 6 August - 12 August	Lecture	**Lecture: Researching Part 2 : The Proactive Story** **Before lecture reading** Bacon, W. (2012). The Research Process. In N. Richardson and S. Tanner (Eds). *Journalism Research and Investigation in a Digital World* (pp. 65 - 76). Melbourne: OUP. **Tutorial 2. Task 2.** Source a series of recent

		social media posts that relate to a 'reactive' story.
Week 4: 13 August - 19 August	Lecture	**Lecture**: **Data Journalism** **Before lecture reading** Gray, J., Bounegru, L. & Chambers, L. (2012). In the Newsroom. *The Data Journalism Handbook,* Cambridge: O'Reilly, pp. 20 - 60. **Tutorial 3, Task 3:** Pitch your Idea for an event based news story.
Week 5: 20 August - 26 August	Lecture	**Lecture: Extending your Writing with Feature Techniques: An Introduction** **Before lecture reading** Lamble, S. (2016). Feature Writing. *News As It Happens.* Melbourne: OUP, pp. 183 - 194. Kasinger, M., Richardson, N., & Tanner, S. (2012). Developing Writing Techniques. *Feature Writing Telling the Story.* Melbourne: OUP, pp. 81 - 108. **Tutorial 4 Task 4**: **ASSESSED** : Write a 300 word news story from a supplied press release, and source additional research and an existing data visualisation. **Submission due: 24 hours after tutorial via Moodle link. 12.5 %**
Week 6: 27 August - 2 September	Lecture	**Lecture: Introduction to Radio Writing and Podcasts** **Before Lecture Reading** Lamble, S. (2016). Writing Broadcast News. *News As It Happens*. Melbourne: OUP, pp. 153 -166. **Tutorial 5: Task 5:** Turn a news story into a feature style introduction.
Week 7: 3 September - 9 September	Lecture	**Lecture: The Art of the Interview** **Before Lecture Reading** Lambert, S. (2016). Interviewing. *News As It Happens*. Melbourne: OUP **Tutorial 6, Task 6**: Radio Script Exercise.

		Introduction to TRC zoom kits.
Week 8: 10 September - 16 September	Lecture	**Lecture: Court Reporting and Legal Issues** **Before lecture reading** Lamble, S. (2016) Courts, Crime and Sport. *News as It Happens.* Melbourne: OUP pp .294 - 317 Lamble, S. (2016) Contempt. *News As It Happens.* Melbourne: OUP, pp. 262 -276 **Tutorial 7** : No task due. Interviewing practice.
Week 9: 17 September - 23 September	Lecture	**Lecture: Objectivity and Bias** **Before lecture reading** Hammond, P. & Calcott, A. (2011). The Rise and Fall of Objectivity. *Journalism Studies: A Critical Introduction.* London / New York: Routledge, pp. 97 -118. **Tutorial 8, Tutorial Task 7 ASSESSED**: Write a news story from a supplied court judgement. 24 hours from tutorial to submit final. (12.5 %)
Break: 24 September - 30 September		
Week 10: 1 October - 7 October	Lecture	**Lecture: Ethical Issues in News Reporting.** **Before lecture reading** Lamble, S. (2016). Journalism Ethics, *News as it Happens.* Melbourne: OUP, pp. 61 - 81 Wasserman, H. (2010). The Search for Global Media Ethics. In C.Meyers (Ed). *Journalism Ethics a Philosophical Approach.* Oxford Scholarship Online. **Tutorial 9, Task 8**: Analyse a supplied report for objectivity and bias, referring to lecture. ***News story production package task Assessment due October 1, 11pm. Please see Moodle 'Assessments' for submission details.***
Week 11: 8 October - 14 October	Lecture	**Lecture Mobile / Backpack Journalism**

		Before lecture reading
		Lancaster, K. (2012). Interlude: On Backpack Journalism. *Video Journalism for the Web*. New York / London: Routledge.
		Garnett, N. (2015). [Mobile Journalism had its place in Paris but it couldn't work alone,](#) BBC Blogs, College of Journalism.
		Tutorial 10: No task due. In class debate on an ethical issue in a chosen story.
Week 12: 15 October - 21 October		**Final Lecture: Exam Revision** **Tutorial 11, Task 8**: In class Video TRC borrowing Mobile Journalism Kits and Videos
Week 13: 22 October - 28 October	Tutorial	**Tutorial Only: Tutorial 12 Exam Revision** No tutorial task due.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Textbook
Lamble, S (2016) *News as it Happens*. Melbourne: OUP. It is recommended that you have your own copy, for unrestricted access, available from the UNSW bookshop or the UNSW bookshop's [eBook](#) link.

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

Zoom recorders and mobile journalism kits can be borrowed from the Technical Resource Centre, Robert Webster Building, pending proficiency.

Recommended Resources

The course requires both national and international current affairs knowledge. 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, The Drum, Matter of Fact and Four Corners)
abc.net.au
ABC radio national / triple J / ABC Sydney Radio
sbs.com.au
Buzzfeed news
theguardian.com/au
the conversation.com /au

Limited free viewing:
smh.com.au
nytimes.com
scmap.com

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is being streamlined and feedback throughout the course is welcome as well as in 'my experience' surveys.

Image Credit

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