



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ101
Introduction to Journalism

Semester 1, 2006
www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ101

Convenor:	Dr Jason Bainbridge Room: SOCSCI 579 Phone: 6226 7146 Email: Jason.Bainbridge@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Thursday 11.00am – 1.00pm (or by appointment)
Unit Description:	This unit introduces students to journalism. Students will analyse journalism, and in particular news, from a range of perspectives, including that of the journalist, the audience, the industry and the media researcher. The unit employs media theories and practical exercises to give students a critical understanding of the field of journalism studies. It also introduces the essentials of news writing, researching and interviewing.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	The major aims of this unit are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To familiarise students with the major theories, concepts and methods used in the study of the news media• To introduce students to the basics of news writing, researching and interviewing• To provide students with a basic knowledge of the history and current practice of journalism in Tasmania, Australia and internationally• To encourage students to think critically about the social and cultural place of journalism, the production of news and the role of the media audience.

<p>When Taught:</p>	<p>Lectures are held every Monday over two hours between 3.10pm and 5pm in the Arts Lecture Theatre. It is important that you attend lectures as only brief printed outlines of lectures and overheads will be made available. They will be placed in the Reserve section of the Morris Miller Library the day after each lecture.</p> <p>Tutorials are held at various times during the week. You will sign up for a tutorial in the first week of classes.</p>
<p>Set Texts:</p>	<p>There are three set texts. Students will need to have regular access to these for lectures, tutorials and exam preparation.</p> <p>1) Conley, David and Stephen Lambie. <i>The Daily Miracle</i>. 3rd ed. South Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2006. (Note this is a new edition this year, substantially different from second-hand copies that might be around.)</p> <p>2) Tapsall, Suellen and Carolyn Varley. <i>Journalism: Theory in Practice</i>. South Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2001.</p> <p>3) Course Reader (this also contains suggestions for further readings).</p> <p>* All three set texts are available from the Co-Op Bookshop.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Students must complete every assignment and sit the two-hour exam. Failure to do so will result in a fail grade in this unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment One: Essay 1,200 words. Due start of Week Seven i.e. Monday April 10, 4pm. 20% • Assignment Two: Write a news story from information provided at the media conference in Week Ten. 500 words. Accompanying essay on news influences (properly referenced). 800 words. Due start Week Eleven, i.e. Monday May 15, 4pm. 25% • Tutorial Assessment: Local Story. 5% News Journal (collected twice). 10% • Exam: Two hours. 40% <p>Assignments should be handed in by 4pm on the due date to the box at the office of the School of English, Journalism and European Languages in room HUM 557.</p> <p>You must read, fill-in and sign a pink (HEJ) assignment sheet and staple it to the front of your assignment. Please do not use any other coverings, such as plastic sleeves, folders, etc. Assignments cannot be accepted by e-mail or fax.</p>

Assignments must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 font, black ink and across an A4 page, and should be appropriately referenced in MLA Style (a style sheet is provided in your Reader. Please be aware this style may differ from other Schools).

Before handing in, ensure you have:

- **Read and understood the plagiarism statement contained in this unit outline.**
- **Edited and redrafted your assignment.**
- **Proof read to ensure there are no pages missing, words missing, spelling errors or fragments of sentences.**
- **Kept a copy of your assignment.**

- **Attached copies of medical certificates if the assignment is late. (Generally, extensions will only be granted on medical grounds with a Doctor's certificate. If you think you are entitled to an extension on other grounds you MUST see Jason BEFORE the due date and include confirmation of your extension when the assignment is submitted. Tutors cannot grant extensions.)**

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week Beginning	Topic	Lecturer
Week One Monday February 27	<p><u>MODULE ONE: What is Journalism?</u></p> <p>First Hour: Introduction to Journalism. Second Hour: Sign-up for tutorials.</p> <p>Tutorial: No tutorial Readings: Conley and Lambie Ch 1 "Journeys in journalism", Ch 2 "Agents of power". Tapsall and Varley Ch 1 "What is a journalist?"</p>	Jason Bainbridge
Week Two Monday March 6	<p>First Hour: History of Journalism. Second Hour: Frontline – David Bradbury (Video).</p> <p>Tutorial: Discuss readings from Reader; discuss video. Readings: 'History of Journalism' readings in the Reader.</p>	Nicola Goc
Week Three Monday March 13	Public Holiday	
Week Four Monday March 20	<p>First Hour: The Public Sphere. Second Hour: The Fourth Estate.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discuss the readings. Readings: Tapsall and Varley Ch 3 "A return to practice", Ch 4 "Journalism in Australia" and 'Public Sphere / Fourth Estate' readings in the Reader.</p>	Jason Bainbridge Nicola Goc
Week Five Monday March 27	<p>First Hour: Content Analysis. Second Hour: Research.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings. Analysis of stories. Readings: Conley Ch 7 "A word's worth", Tapsall and Varley Ch 7 "The importance of enquiry" and 'Content Analysis/Research' readings in the Reader.</p>	Libby Lester Jason Bainbridge
Week Six Monday April 3	<p><u>MODULE TWO: Journalistic Writing</u></p> <p>First Hour: Writing News, part 1 – Elements of the story. Second Hour: Writing News, part 2 – Elements of the story.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings. Exercises from reader. Readings: Conley Ch 4 "A 'know' for news", Ch 5 "The lead: Will the reader follow?", Ch 6 "Upside-down pyramids" and 'Writing News' readings from the Reader.</p>	Susanna Rodell

<p>Week Seven Monday April 10</p>	<p>First Hour: News Culture, part 1 – The Newsroom. Second Hour: News Culture, part 2 – Gatekeeping.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings. News ranking exercises from reader. Readings: Conley Ch 10 "The story factory", Tapsall and Varley Ch 5 "Journalism: beyond the business" and 'Newsroom' readings in the Reader.</p> <p>* Due date for Assignment 1.</p>	<p>Sarah Gillman</p>
<p>Monday April 17</p>	<p>Easter</p>	
<p>Week Eight Monday April 24</p>	<p>First Hour: Interviewing. Second Hour: Investigative Journalism.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings. Readings: Conley Ch 9 "Interviewing, a core skill" and "Interviewing" readings in the Reader.</p> <p>* "Local Story" exercise to be collected in tutorials.</p>	<p>Bruce Montgomery</p>
<p>Week Nine Monday May 1</p>	<p>Media Conference</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings/media conference outcomes. Readings: Conley Ch 8 "Small path, big story"</p> <p>* Please Note: You MUST attend the Media Conference as this forms the basis for Assignment Two.</p> <p>You should come with prepared questions, something to take notes with and a tape recorder if you have one.</p>	<p>Jason Bainbridge Libby Lester</p>
<p>Week Ten Monday May 8</p>	<p><u>MODULE THREE: Frameworks</u></p> <p>First Hour: Ethics. Second Hour: Frontline Video.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings and video. Readings: Conley and Lamble Ch 16 "Ethical journalism: Is it an oxymoron?", Tapsall and Varley Ch 12 "Public interest, private lives" and 'Ethics' readings in the Reader.</p>	<p>Nicola Goc</p>
<p>Week Eleven Monday May 15</p>	<p>First Hour: Politics. Second Hour: Video.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of readings and video. Readings: Tapsall and Varley Ch 8 "More than skin deep", Ch 11 "Putting the public back into journalism", Conley Ch 11 "Reporting for Duty."</p> <p>* Due date for Assignment Two.</p>	<p>Libby Lester</p>

<p>Week Twelve Monday May 22</p>	<p>First Hour: Media law. Defamation. Second Hour: Media law. Contempt.</p> <p>Tutorial: Discussion of case studies/readings Readings: Conley Ch 17 "Perils of Defamation", Tapsall and Varley Ch 13 "A question of legality"</p>	<p>Jason Bainbridge</p>
<p>Week Thirteen Monday May 29</p>	<p>Exam preparation.</p> <p>Tutorial: Exam preparation</p> <p>* Final collection of news journals.</p>	<p>Jason Bainbridge</p>
	<p>Study Period: Monday June 5 – Friday June 9</p>	
	<p>Examination Period: Saturday June 10 – Tuesday June 27</p>	

FURTHER READING

- Carey, John, Ed. *The Faber Book of Reportage*. London: Faber and Faber, 1987.
- de Burgh, Hugo. *Investigative Journalism: Context and Practice*. London: Routledge, 2000.
- Didion, Joan. *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*. Middlesex, England: Penguin, 1974.
- Dunlevy, Maurice. *Feature Writing*. Geelong: Deakin University, 1988.
- Evans, Harold. *Eyewitness*. London: Book Club Associates, 1981.
- Evans, Harold M., ed. *The Best American Magazine Writing 2001*. Cambridge, MA: Public Affairs, 2001.
- Glover, Stephen, ed. *The Penguin Book of Journalism*. London: Penguin Books, 2000.
- Granato, Len. *Newspaper Feature Writing*. Geelong, VIC: Deakin University, 1999.
- Hemingway, Ernest. *By-Line: Ernest Hemingway*, edited by William White. London: Collins, 1968.
- Hurst, John and Sally White, *Ethics and the Australian News Media*. South Melbourne: Macmillan Education Australia, 1994.
- Jackson, Dennis, and John Sweeney, eds. *The Journalist's Craft: A Guide to Writing Better Stories*. New York: Allworth Press, 2002.
- Leith, Denise. *Bearing Witness: The Lives of War Correspondents and Photojournalists*. Sydney: Random House Australia, 2004.
- McQuade, Donald, and Robert Atwan, eds. *Popular Writing in America: The Interaction of Style and Audience*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Mencher, Melvin. *Basic Media Writing*. 6th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill College, 1999.
- Orwell, George. "Politics and the English Language." In *Inside the Whale and Other Essays*. Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1946.
- Pearson, Mark. *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law*. St Leonards: Allen & Unwin, 1997.
- Reah, Danuta. *The Language of Newspapers*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2002.
- Ricketson, Matthew. *Writing Feature Stories*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2004.
- Ross, Lillian. *Reporting*. London: Mayflower Books, 1964.
- Sedorkin, Gail, and Judy McGregor. *Interviewing: A Guide for Journalists and Writers*. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2002.
- Strunk, William, and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. 4th ed. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, 2000.
- Tanner, Stephen. *Journalism: Investigation and Research*. Frenchs Forest: Pearson Education Australia, 2002.
- Wolfe, Tom. *The New Journalism*. London: Picador, 1973.
- Woods, Keith, ed. *Best Newspaper Writing 2002*. St Petersburg, Florida: Poynter Institute for Media Studies, 2002.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office. All written assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email or other electronic means) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for each day late for the first ten (10) working days (ie. 10 days late -50%). Assignments submitted after this point will receive no marks and no comments. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a certified counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Student Counsellor
- Careers Adviser
- Disability Adviser

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see

<http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/> "

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The English discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterised by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003).

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.