



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

UNIT OUTLINE

HEJ505 Investigative Journalism

Semester 1, 2006

www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ505

Lecturer:	Ms Susanna Rodell Room: HUM 573 Phone: 6226 2938 Email: Susanna.Rodell@utas.edu.au Consultation hours: Tues 12-12.50am, Wed 10-10.50am
Convenor:	Dr Libby Lester Room: HUM546 Phone: 6226 7542 Email: Libby.Lester@utas.edu.au Consultation hours: Tues 10-10.50am, Wed 10-10.50am
Unit description:	Students are introduced to the skills required for investigative journalism. Topics covered will include acquiring information, interpreting financial records, using freedom of information legislation, and other investigative tools. Students are expected to produce an investigative feature using these tools.
Unit aims and objectives:	Students will acquire the skills necessary to produce a competent piece of investigative journalism.
Learning outcomes:	At the end of this unit, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop ideas for investigative stories• Conduct journalistic research• Critically assess ideas/angles in light of research• Effectively communicate research outcomes to editors and readers• Structure an investigative story• Understand the ethics of investigative journalism• Understand legal issues.
Required texts:	Tanner S. Ed <i>Journalism, Investigation and Research</i> , Longman, 2002.

When taught:	Semester 1, 2006 Tuesday 9:00am – 10:50am (1-13) SOCSCI 580
Assessment:	<p>2000 word assignment: pitch and research plan, due end Week 5, i.e. Friday 31 March, 5pm (30%); 2000 word research paper, due end Week 9, i.e. Friday 5 May, 5pm (20%); 3,000 word major feature plus a 1000 word analysis, due end Week 13, i.e. Friday 2 June, 5pm (50%). Assignment sheets will be handed out in seminars.</p> <p>Further assignment/workshopping information:</p> <p>All assignments/drafts should be across A4 pages and double-spaced.</p> <p>For workshopping, students will need to provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants.</p> <p>When including interview material in stories, students will need to attach a signed interview consent form, which will be provided in seminars.</p> <p>All journalistic writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide, which will also be provided to you in seminars. The essay and exegesis should follow MLA style.</p>

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Beginning	Topic
1	27 Feb	Introduction. What is investigative journalism?
2	6 Mar	Where to start: Ideas, preliminary research and pitches.
3	13 Mar	Presentation of pitches.
4	20 Mar	Presentation of pitches.
5	27 Mar	Between pitch and execution: What can go wrong?
6	3 April	Research techniques.
7	10 April	Ethics: relationships with sources, sussing out agendas, using the work of others, relationships with editors etc. Legal issues.
8	24 April	Anzac Day
9	1 May	Interviewing: preparation, techniques, tools. PR: How to use and how to avoid flacks.
10	8 May	Workshopping drafts.
11	15 May	Workshopping drafts.
12	22 May	Workshopping drafts.
13	29 May	Final debriefing: what worked, what didn't, lessons learned etc.

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 penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a 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/t/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 Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses MLA Style, which is characterized 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.