



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ209/309

Ethics in Journalism

Semester 2, 2006

<http://www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ209>

Lecturer:	Nicola Goc Room: HUM 544 Phone: 6226 2473 Email: Nicola.Goc@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Tuesday 12.10 pm – 1.00 pm and Wednesday 3.00 – 4.00 pm (otherwise by appointment)
Unit Description:	This subject addresses ethical issues that arise out of the practice of journalism. Using case studies, the unit explores moral philosophy from the perspective of the news journalist and covers such issues as cheque book journalism, protecting sources, reporting violence, invasion of privacy and representation of gender and race.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	This unit aims to encourage students to think about the ethical implications of professional practice in terms of news journalism. Students will acquire skills in moral literacy and reasoning relevant to the practise of news journalism.
Learning Outcomes:	At the end of this unit, students should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have an understanding of the ethical issues which news journalists encounter in their daily work;• be able to critically analyse the challenges of ethical practice in the production of news;• understand the ethical and production issues involved in the creation of news; and• understand and critique the importance and relevance of unethical practice within the Fourth Estate model of the production of news.

<p>Required Texts:</p>	<p><i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>, Stephen Tanner, Gail Phillips, Chris Smyth and Suellen Tapsall. Available at the Co-op Bookshop and on reserve at the Morris Miller Library.</p>
<p>Recommended Texts:</p>	<p><i>Journalism Ethics</i>, Hirst and Patching. Available at the Co-op Bookshop and on reserve at the Morris Miller Library.</p>
<p>When Taught:</p>	<p>Semester 2, 2006</p> <p>Lectures: Wednesday: 1.10 pm – 3.00 pm (14-26) Arts Lecture Theatre</p> <p>Tutorials: Weekly. See JMC noticeboard for times; sign up to a tutorial in the first week.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>One 1,500-word essay: 20% One media monitoring project and essay: 30% Five examples of ethical issues in print media: 10% A two-hour exam in the exam period: 40%</p> <p>All writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide.</p>

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic
19 Jul	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Fine Line - Episode One <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter One: Ethics and the routine in journalism</p>
26 Jul	<p>The Fourth Estate</p> <p>Fine Line - Episode Two <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Three: Journalism as a Profession</p>
2 Aug	<p>Code of Ethics</p> <p>Fine Line - Episode Three <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Four: Industry Codes; Chapter Five: The Regulators</p> <p>Example 1 due</p>
7 Aug	<p>Assignment One due 4 pm</p>
9 Aug	<p>Deception, Plagiarism</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Thirteen: Deception</p>
16 Aug	<p>Chequebook Journalism, Conflict of Interest</p> <p>Fine Line - Episode Five <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Fourteen: Chequebook journalism; Chapter Fifteen: Conflict of Interest.</p> <p>Example 2 due</p>
23 Aug	<p>Ethical Journalism: A Case Study: Veronica Guerin</p>
30 Aug	<p>Journalism Ethics in Times of Conflict</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Sixteen: Crime, crisis, conflict.</p> <p>Example 3 due</p>
4 - 8 Sep	<p>Mid-Semester Break</p>

13 Sep	<p>Gendered News</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Ten: Race and Gender</p> <p>Protecting Sources</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Seven: Sources</p>
18 Sep	<p>Assignment Two due 4 pm</p>
20 Sep	<p>Reporting Race and Minorities</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Ten: Race and Gender</p> <p>Example 4 due</p>
27 Sep	<p>Australian Press Council Seminar</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Handouts</p>
4 Oct	<p>Private Lives Public, Right to Know</p> <p><u>Video:</u> The Paparazzi</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Twelve: Public and Private</p> <p>Example 5 due</p>
11 Oct	<p>Reporting Mental Health and Disability Issues</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i>: Chapter Nine: Suicide; Chapter Eleven: Disability. Handouts.</p>
18 Oct	<p>Review</p>

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/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 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). For journalistic writing, you must follow the JMC Style Guide.

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.