



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ407
Understanding the Public Sphere
Semester 2, 2006
www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ407

Convenor:	Dr Jason Bainbridge Room: HUM 579 Phone: 6226 7146 Email: Jason.Bainbridge@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours:	Monday 12 – 2 pm
Unit description:	This unit considers the role of the mass media in the public sphere. Students will be introduced to histories and theories of the public sphere. The multiple roles of the mass media will be explored: from its place in the trade and exchange of ideas to its position as a forum for local and international issues. Particular attention will be paid to the way mass media produces a sense of community.
Required texts:	McKee, Alan. <i>The public sphere: an introduction</i> . New York, N.Y: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
When taught:	Weekly three hour seminars Tuesdays 1.10 – 4pm HUM565
Assessment:	Research essay totalling 5000-words.

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
18/7	Introduction: What is the Public Sphere?	Jason Bainbridge
25/7	<p>Habermas' Concept and Theory of the Public Sphere Required Reading: R. van Krieken, P. Smith, D. Habibis, B. Hutchins, M. Haralambos and M. Holborn (2006) <i>Sociology: Themes and Perspectives</i>, 3rd edition, Frenchs Forest: Pearson Education, pp. 440-443. Habermas, Jurgens, (1974), "<i>Public sphere: an encyclopedia article (1964)</i>", <i>New German critique</i> v1 n3 Fall 1974 p49-55 Preparing your Honours Project</p>	Craig Norris
1/8	<p>The Return of 'Public Man' and Independent Online News Required Reading: B. Hutchins (in press, 2007) 'Public Culture, Independent Online News and the Tasmanian Times,' <i>Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism</i>, 8(2).</p>	Craig Norris
8/8	<p>The Digital Public Sphere Required Reading: L. Goode (2005) <i>Jürgen Habermas: Democracy and the Public Sphere</i>, London: Pluto Press, pp. 89-119.</p>	Craig Norris
15/8	<p>The Postmodern Public Sphere A.McKee (2005) "Commercialization" pp. 66-105.</p>	Jason Bainbridge
22/8	<p>Mass Media and the Public Sphere A.McKee (2005) "Spectacle" pp. 105-140 Film: TBA</p>	Jason Bainbridge
29/8	Conclusion	Jason Bainbridge

Study period: 23-27 October

Examination period: 28/10 – 14/11

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

All submission dates are regarded as exam dates in the honours year. In exceptional circumstances students may apply for an extension for the submission of their work, but you must contact the Honours coordinator *before* the relevant due date.

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).

Honours Marking Scale

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

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—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.