



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ606
Advanced Journalism
Semester 2, 2006

www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ606

Convenor and Lecturer:	Dr Libby Lester Room: HUM546 Phone: 6226 7542 Email: Libby.Lester@utas.edu.au
Lecturer and Tutor:	Mr Bruce Montgomery bruce.montgomery@bigpond.com
Consultation Hours:	Dr Libby Lester: Tues 12.00 pm - 12.50pm, Tues 2.10 pm – 3.00 pm, or by appointment. Mr Bruce Montgomery: By appointment.
Unit Description:	This unit examines narrative techniques in non-fiction writing, to give students both a basis for understanding the many varieties of journalistic writing and a range of journalistic writing options for their own work. Students examine various writing genres such as the essay, reportage and literary journalism. Students are required to undertake a scholarly analysis of journalistic writing that uses narrative techniques. Students are also expected to produce substantial pieces of non-fiction writing and to reflect on and constructively critique their research and writing processes to develop the skills required to write advanced journalism.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	At the end of this unit, you should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• produce journalistic writing at an advanced level;• identify and critically analyse a variety of journalistic writing;• constructively critique the research and writing of fellow students;• pitch, research and write a feature story of publishable standard; and• understand past and present media environments and the place of non-fiction narrative writing within them.

Learning Outcomes:	<p>By taking this unit, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build <i>knowledge</i> and enhance skills in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above); • enhance skills in <i>communication</i>, both written and oral, through assignments and workshops; • enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and workshopping activities; and • develop a <i>global perspective</i> through the analysis of texts from a range of national and cultural contexts.
Required Texts:	Unit Reader (Available from the Co-op Bookshop)
Recommended Texts:	<p>(on Reserve in the Morris Miller Library)</p> <p>Carey, John, ed. <i>The Faber Book of Reportage</i>. London: Faber and Faber, 1987.</p> <p>Dunlevy, Maurice. <i>Feature Writing</i>. Geelong, VIC: Deakin University, 1988.</p> <p>Granato, Len. <i>Newspaper Feature Writing</i>. Geelong, VIC: Deakin University, 1999.</p> <p>Jackson, Dennis, and John Sweeney, eds. <i>The Journalist's Craft: A Guide to Writing Better Stories</i>. New York: Allworth Press, 2002.</p> <p>Kaplan, Bruce. <i>Editing Made Easy</i>. Camberwell, VIC: Penguin Books, 2003.</p> <p>Ricketson, Matthew. <i>Writing Feature Stories</i>. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2004.</p> <p>Sedorkin, Gail, and Judy McGregor. <i>Interviewing: A Guide for Journalists and Writers</i>. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2002.</p> <p>Strunk, William, and E.B. White. <i>The Elements of Style</i>. 4th ed. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, 2000.</p> <p>Wolfe, Tom. <i>The New Journalism</i>. London: Picador, 1973.</p>
When taught:	Semester 2, 2006 Tuesday 10:00 am – 11:50 am (14-26) SOCSCI 322
Assessment:	<p>2500 word publishable essay (35%), 1500 word field-based writings (3 x 500 words @ 10% each = 30%), 2000 word researched feature and 500-word critique (35%)</p> <p>Assignment/workshopping information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone must take part in the workshopping process for assignments two (all parts) and three. • All assignments/drafts should be across A4 pages and double-spaced. • For workshopping, you will need to provide copies of drafts for all workshop participants in advance – see below. • When including interview material in stories, you must attach signed interview consent forms. • All journalistic writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide, which is available online. The critique should follow MLA style, a guide that is also available online. See the JMC homepage at http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/arts/journalism/index.asp.

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Tuesday	Topic	Readings	Notes
1	18 Jul	1. Introduction 2. Feature Writing (part one) (LL)	Malcolm, 'The Journalist and the Murderer'; James, 'The Continuing Insult to the Language'; Carey (ed), 'The Faber Book of Reportage' extracts.	
2	25 Jul	1. Feature Writing (part two) 2. (a) Discussion of readings (b) Feature editing (LL)	'Punctuation of Quotes'; Granato, 'Quotations'; Talese, from 'The overreachers'.	
3	1 Aug	Field trip 1: Court (BM)	Legge, 'Patrick'; Siegel, 'The Vanishing'; Thomas, 'Court in Crisis'.	Meet Bruce at Supreme Court 9.45am.
4	8 Aug	1. Analysis of readings 2. Workshopping field writings (BM)	Jackson and Sweeney (eds), 'The Journalist's Craft' extracts; Ricketson, 'Writing Feature Stories'.	
5	15 Aug	1. Literary Journalism 2. Analysis of readings (LL)	Franklin, 'Literary Theft' in Jackson and Sweeney; Didion, 'Slouching towards Bethlehem'; Shapiro, 'The Curse of Tom Wolfe'.	500 words from Field trip 1 due Tuesday.
6	22 Aug	Feature pitches. See Assignment Three. (BM)	Garner, 'The First Stone'; Ricketson, 'Helen Garner's The First Stone'.	
7	29 Aug	Field trip 2: Politics (BM)	Wolff, 'Words Fail Him'; Peretz, 'High Noon in Crawford'; Simons, 'Fit to Print'.	Meet Bruce at Parliament House main foyer 9.45am.
8	12 Sep	1. Analysis of readings 2. Workshopping field writings (BM)	Ricketson, 'The Subtle and Slippery Art of Interviewing'; Barber, 'The Art of the Interview' in Glover.	
9	19 Sep	No workshop	Wittaker, 'Ordinary Heroes'; Nazario, 'The Boy Left Behind' plus notes.	500 words from Field trip 2 due Tuesday.

10	26 Sep	Field trip 3: Place (LL)	Kerouac, 'The Dharma Bums'; Ehrlich, 'The Endless Hunt' in Evans.	Meet Libby at tba. 2,500-word essay due Friday.
11	3 Oct	1. Analysis of readings 2. Workshopping field writings (LL)	Lane, 'The Maria Problem' in Evans; Worsthorne, 'Dumbing Up' in Glover; Hemingway, 'By-Line'.	
12	10 Oct	Workshopping feature drafts (BM)	Feature Drafts	500 words from Field trip 3 due Tuesday.
13	17 Oct	Workshopping feature drafts (BM)	Feature Drafts	
14		Study week		2000-word major feature plus 500-word critique due Monday.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment One: Essay (worth 35 per cent)

Description

Essay Question: "Never let the facts get in the way of a good story."
Discuss the concept of truth in relation to contemporary literary journalism.

This essay should be written in an accessible style, publishable in a non-scholarly magazine such as *The Monthly* or *Vanity Fair*. That is, referencing should be embedded within the text in a conversational, journalistic style (but also include an MLA reference list at the end for assessment purposes).

Length

2,500 words

Assessment criteria / guidelines

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of research and referencing
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and style.

Date due

Due end Week 10, i.e. Friday, 29 September, 5 pm.

Assignment Two: Field-based writings (worth 30 per cent)

Description Following each field trip, you are required to produce 500 words of narrative writing based on the field trip. These pieces of writing should deploy a range of narrative techniques, such as the use of quotes and/or dialogue, and description and telling detail. They should tell a story. They do not need to be complete stories; they may function as part of a larger feature. They may also focus on an event, a person, an anecdote or a setting or interweave all these. You may provide your impressions, but you should also include facts that you have independently researched for background from elsewhere, such as previously published material. Each piece must be workshopped with the group one week after the field trip. You will need to email the draft of your piece to Bruce (one and two) and Libby (three) on the Monday before the workshopping seminar (i.e. the week after the field trip) for distribution via email to other members of the group. Please make the effort to print and comment on each other's work. You should then redraft your writing on the basis of feedback and submit for assessment the following week. Drafts and final assignments should be double-spaced, across A4 pages.

Length Three 500-word pieces worth 10 per cent each.

Assessment criteria / guidelines

- Use of description
- Use of anecdotes
- Style and tone
- Research, including interviews
- Accuracy
- Structure
- Grammar and punctuation
- Use of speech
- Presence of news ingredients
- Workshopping and redrafting
- Understanding of the genre
- Adherence to JMC Style Guide

Date due One: Start Week 5, i.e. Tuesday, 15 August, 5 pm.
Two: Start Week 9, i.e. Tuesday, 19 September, 5 pm.
Three: Start Week 12, i.e. Tuesday, 10 October, 5 pm.

Assignment Three: Major feature (worth 35 per cent)

Description Write a feature on a subject of your choice. It can be a profile or a broader feature, but should not be an essay or opinion piece. You must pitch and discuss your story idea with Bruce during the seminar in Week Six. When pitching, treat the workshop group as the publication's editors. You should:

- Identify the publication and say why it is suitable
- Succinctly say what your story is about
- Describe a possible treatment (i.e. style, length, tone)
- Suggest possible intro, headline and images to accompany the story
- Be prepared to defend your thinking.

The story should include at least four to six interviews (for a profile, you will need to find interviewees willing to discuss your main subject) and substantial other research. All interviewees will be required to sign an interview consent form, which are available online or on the JMC noticeboard.

You are encouraged to be adventurous with this piece of writing but you should still privilege journalistic research and facts.

You will be allocated a time for workshoping a draft of your profile in weeks 12 and 13. You will need to email the draft of your feature to Bruce on the Friday before you are due to workshop, for distribution via email to other members of the group. Drafts and final assignments should be double-spaced, across A4 pages.

The critique should include reflections on both the story content and its broader context within the genre of feature writing and other forms of narrative non-fiction, and is to be handed in with your assignment. Your reflexive critique should be properly referenced according to MLA style.

Length Feature: 2000 words
Critique: 500 words

Assessment criteria / guidelines

Assessment for the feature will be based on the following:

- Structure, including blocks and justifier
- Grammar and punctuation
- Intro and ending
- Use of speech
- Use of description
- Use of anecdotes
- Style and tone
- Research, including background and interviews
- Presence of news ingredients
- Workshoping and redrafting
- Understanding of the genre
- Adherence to JMC Style Guide

You must attach completed interview consent forms, one for each interviewee.

Your critique should be in academic style and properly referenced. It should discuss how and why your feature developed as it did, and contextualise your work in broader contexts, which may be drawn from your readings of other features and/or guides to feature writing (see Recommended Texts).

Date due Start Week 14 (Study Week), i.e. Monday, 23 October, 5 pm.

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 should 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.