



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

UNIT OUTLINE

HEJ213/313
Radio Journalism

Semester 1, 2007
<http://www.utas.edu.au/units/HEJ213>

Convenor:	Ms Sarah Gillman Room: SOCSCI 536 Phone: 6226 1930 Email: Sarah.Gillman@utas.edu.au
Consultation hours:	Thursday 12-2 pm
Unit description:	Students will build upon news skills and journalistic techniques learned in earlier units, while developing a distinctly different way of writing and presenting news and current affairs. Students will learn skills in recording voice and sound, and editing these into professional radio news and current affairs packages for broadcast. There are tutorial exercises in news writing, sound gathering, interviewing, voice production and audio editing. Contributions to a local youth community station are also required in this unit. Students learn about the genre of radio and produce a scholarly essay.
Unit aims and objectives:	The aims of this unit are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Teach students how to write in the distinct radio form and show how it differs from writing in other media;▪ Provide an opportunity both to study the theory of news, current affairs and documentaries on radio, and to produce packages for a real radio station;▪ Provide some training in the technical aspects of radio journalism practice;▪ Help students develop skills in voice, audio editing and research.

<p>Learning outcomes:</p>	<p>Students undertaking this unit will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance oral communication skills through conducting and recording interviews for radio news and current affairs; 2. Enhance written communication skills through preparing professional radio news and current affairs scripts suitable for broadcast on Edge Radio 99.3FM; 3. Have acquired sufficient knowledge to develop voice techniques in preparation for professional radio journalism; 4. Develop fundamental skills in sound gathering and digital audio editing; 5. Enhance both problem solving and social responsibility skills through the teamwork and professionalism required for content provision for a real radio station; and 6. Gain knowledge of the context of radio in the mass media.
<p>Required texts:</p>	<p>Gail Phillips and Mia Lindgren <i>The Australian Broadcast Journalism Manual</i> 2nd Ed. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2006</p>
<p>When taught:</p>	<p>Semester 1, 2007</p> <p>Lectures: 10:00 – 10:50 am Monday HUM 548 Tutorials: 1 x 2-hrs weekly</p> <p>News and Production Work: Please note that technical production and editing skills will be taught in tutorials so it is important that you attend. You will also need to schedule production time outside of these hours to contribute to Edge radio and to complete your assessment items.</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Radio news script (10%) due Week 4 (Mon March 19 5pm)</p> <p>Essay – 1500 words (20%) due Week 7 (Monday April 16 5pm)</p> <p>Radio News portfolio (15%) due Week 10 (Mon. May 7 5pm)</p> <p>Edge Contribution – JOTE story details (15%) due one week after rostered timeslot.</p>

	<p>Major current affairs project (40%) due end of swotvac, (Fri. June 8 5 pm)</p>
<p>Special notes:</p>	<p>Edge Radio</p> <p>In February 2003, Edge Radio began broadcasting permanently as a community radio licence holder on 99.3FM. The station, which is a broadly-based community endeavour that has a target audience of people aged 15 to 30, has its studios in the Arts Building. <i>However, it is not a university radio station.</i> In November 2003, Edge was named national Radio Station of the Year, and received several other awards including Excellence in Spoken Word Broadcasting for its show Journalists on the Edge (JOTE). Students in this course aim to become active participants in the provision of news and related services to Edge Radio. Therefore it is essential that all students undertaking this unit have a commitment to quality on-air reporting and production work that may go beyond the normal requirements for a scholarly unit. It is not possible to undertake this unit if students are not able to attend the weekly tutorial, the one-hour lecture AND contribute to Edge Radio. This unit is best suited to energetic and serious journalism students who want real-life experience and the excitement of genuine deadlines for a real program. It may not be suited to students who work full time.</p> <p>Pro Tools and Technical Equipment</p> <p>During the semester students will be given the opportunity to learn and practice technical production, including Pro Tools Audio Editing and field recording. Basic instruction will be provided in tutorial sessions. However additional use and practice will be required outside these classes. It is up to you to organise your time to learn these skills. This work will enable students to edit their own news and current affairs stories. Field recording equipment can be borrowed during the semester. Information about borrowing arrangements will be given to you in Week 1. It is strongly recommended that you consider purchasing and using your own audio recording and data storage equipment as items for borrowing are limited and provided for specific times. Additional information will be provided to you about the suitability of equipment for broadcast purposes during Week 1. Lab availability times will also be provided to you.</p>

Week	Lecture	Tutorial	Readings	Assignment
26/2 Wk 1	Introduction; Radio in Australia; Radio News; EdgeRadio	No Tute <i>Please Note Tutorial Lists will be available outside my office HUM 536</i>	Textbook pp.3-13 pp. 157-180 Cunningham pp.133-151	
5/3 Wk 2	Writing for Radio; The Radio Journalist	Orientation Introductory Writing Exercises.	Textbook pp.41-48 pp.181-199	
12/3 Wk 3	NO LECTURE Public Holiday	Writing Exercises – different approaches.		
19/3 Wk 4	Using Sound	Sound Workshop	Textbook pp.65-69	<i>News Script Due Mon 19/3 5pm.</i>
26/3 Wk 5	Using Voices; The Ethics of Editing	Vocal and Reading Practice	Textbook pp.31-40 Ahern pp 70-78	
2/4 Wk 6	Radio Equipment; Technophobia	Recording Exercises	Textbook pp.69-84	
EASTER BREAK 5 – 11 April				
16/4 Wk 7	Interviewing; The Editing Process	Protools Workshop	Textbook pp.51-62. Bell pp.1-27.	<i>Essay Due Mon April 16/4 5pm</i>
23/4 Wk 8	Broadcast Law and Regulation	Newsroom Workshops	Beattie pp.42-49 Handout	
30/4 Wk 9	Radio Current Affairs	Newsroom Workshops	Textbook pp.87-105	
7/5 Wk 10	Radio Documentaries	Newsroom Workshops	Ahearn pp.189-197	
14/5 Wk 11	'Live' Radio and the Radio Journalist	Newsroom Workshops	Textbook pp.117-153	<i>News Portfolio Due Mon 7/5 5pm.</i>
21/5 Wk 12	'New' Radio	Newsroom Workshops	Textbook pp.21-27.	
28/5 Wk 13	Revision	Newsroom Workshops		
5/6 Wk 14	SWOTVAC			<i>Caff Feature Due Fri 8/6 5pm.</i>

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 – Radio news script

For this assignment you need to prepare a real news story and submit a written script that follows the format presented to you in the lecture (an example of a radio script is provided below).

Your story should be a well-crafted radio news story, strictly within the range of 25 to 40 seconds. The script must be timed, as shown in lectures and tutorials and on the sample script. Please refer to your notes from Lecture 2 Writing for Radio to ensure that you take account of factors such as signposting.

You are free to decide for yourselves the subject matter of your story, keeping in mind the following: you should write it as though it is going to be used on a youth-orientated radio station; it must be of interest to the broad community of Hobart youth; it must derive from a genuine news source; and it must be carefully checked for factual accuracy.

The story is due for submission by 5pm on Monday March 19 (Week 4). It must be submitted, in hard copy (no electronic submission), with an attached cover sheet. This assignment is worth 10 per cent of your unit mark. This assessment will assess Learning Outcome 2.

Marking criteria

- genuine news value;
- demonstration of radio news writing skills including effective intro with signposting and brief and clear language;
- correct grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- adherence to the radio scripting style guide; and
- written presentation, including timing and slug.

Whale beaching
bloggs
20/04/06

Animal rescue volunteers in Tasmania are attempting to save a pod of thirteen whales stranded on an east coast beach.

Fisherman, **Ewan (you-in) Barratt** says he found the Southern Right Whales about twenty-five kilometres south of Swansea.

About 30 Parks and Wildlife volunteers are on the scene, rugged-up against the extreme cold to begin pushing the animals back out to sea.

Department Spokesperson **Dinah Andersen** says the coming high tide may assist efforts.

She says at this stage, no-one knows why the whales have beached themselves.

28 secs

Assignment 2 – Essay

Please write 1,500 words on ONE of the following topics:

1. When journalists began using interviews in print media in the nineteenth century, the practice was criticised as being trivial and an invasion of privacy. Today radio journalism relies on interviews for content. How then, has the practice of interviewing developed and what issues arise in regards to the legitimacy of a story and the privacy of interviewees.
2. What role does radio play in developing communities? Discuss this with regard to the theories of Marshall McLuhan who described radio as a 'hot' medium.
3. What role does *narrative style* play in radio journalism?
4. The Australian radio sector has developed into three different streams – public, commercial and community. Outline this historical development and discuss the impact of new digital technology on the sector.

Your essays should be based on a variety of sources, including relevant and credible material from the Internet, and should be correctly referenced throughout (see further information below in guidelines). This is intended to be a scholarly piece of work, therefore value judgements and “gut feelings” will not suffice. Back up your assertions with evidence. Initiative is important and you should consider consulting sources outside the usual mass communication and media sections of the library, perhaps using books and journals on politics, sociology or demography. Broad-ranging research will be rewarded. All essays should have a cover page that quotes the question you are answering in full and a bibliography listing all sources consulted and cited. You must use the MLA citation style. Notes on this are provided on the School and University Library websites.

Please place your essays in the essay slot at the School office, before 5pm on Monday April 16. This assignment is worth 20 per cent of your unit mark. This assessment will assess Learning Outcome 6.

Essay guidelines and marking criteria

Essay writing is an important discipline in university learning. It helps students to gain experience in research, logical thinking and disciplined writing. It is helpful for all potential communicators to become versatile in various kinds of writing. This is one kind of writing that is especially useful because it encourages you to analyse a variety of material, a skill that will be beneficial in your careers. You will be required to hone your skills in this area as part of your radio unit. You should follow these guidelines when preparing this work. Your essays will be marked according your ability to demonstrate your abilities in these areas:

- Consult a wide variety of sources: books, journal articles, media reports, credible internet sources, etc. You must not rely upon a couple of sources as this narrows your view and makes your work less likely to be sufficiently persuasive or complete. It is unlikely that an essay that relies upon one or two sources will be persuasive and complete enough to pass.
- Take special care with your introductions and conclusions. The intro must outline the argument you are about to make in general terms. Do not use quotes from sources in your intro – introduce your argument in your own words. Your conclusion must sum up the evidence effectively and convincingly, drawing together all the themes and information you have surveyed. I would prefer that you did not use first person.
- You must proofread your work very carefully. Errors of spelling, grammar and punctuation will be penalised. Never hand in a first draft - get used to rigorous self-editing. Also get used to using consistent style throughout a piece of work.

Alongside the radio style guide supplied for this subject, there is also a written word style guide on the Vista homepage. You must use this when preparing your essay.

- All assertions must be attributed. This means that you don't just cite a source when you use a direct quote; you cite all statements of fact or opinion that you have obtained from someone else. You have to be sure that you avoid any appearance of plagiarism. You must use the MLA referencing system to show where your information came from, in a form that I can check by going back to the source. If I find that part or all of your work is unattributed and written by someone else, the assignment will fail. Please refer to the University's plagiarism policy contained in this unit outline.
- The language that you use should be scholarly and measured. Do not rely upon emotive arguments based on gut feelings or personal opinions. Back your arguments with solid and verifiable evidence at all times. By all means canvass contentious issues that have different possible interpretations, but always do so dispassionately. Essays are not opportunities to appeal to emotion. The best essays are always disciplined and carefully controlled analyses of wide-ranging information.
- You must address the set question, not go off on tangents. Always focus clearly on what the question is about and direct your efforts to answering it as fully as possible.
- You should take some care with the presentation of the essay. Always state in full the question you are answering - type it onto your cover page and also at the top of your first page of text. Double-space your work and make sure that the type size is not too small (usually 12 point is best). Allow plenty of margin space.

Assignment 3 – News Portfolio

This assignment comprises THREE different stories, as prepared in tutorials. You will need to identify a suitable news item, and then produce THREE different story versions for broadcast. These will comprise a *copy* version, a *voiceover* and a version including *actuality* or a *grab* of talent. The differences will be outlined in the lecture, and practiced in tutorials. It's anticipated that you will be able to produce these items during your tutorial times. Newsroom workshops will be run during tutes to provide you with the opportunity to develop your portfolio. You will need to hand-in the source of your original story (media release, news item, newsletter etc.), the THREE stories and a CD with your audio. All items must be clearly labelled with your name and contained within a folder or envelope. You must also submit all signed interview permission forms. These can be downloaded from both the School website and VISTA. Forms will also be available in tutes. This assignment is due on Monday May 7 at 5pm. It is worth 15 per cent of your unit marks. This assessment will assess Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Your broadcast-quality radio news stories must be based on interviews with genuine sources on real news events of interest to a youth audience. They are not confined to University issues but any items of interest to the station's listeners.

Please note that you must follow the established protocols for saving your work in the Lab, but it is your responsibility to make copies of your own work, by downloading items during the semester and copying to CD or saving to your own hard drive.

The marking will be carried out as follows:

- Quality of stories provided in terms of subject matter
- Radio style, structure and presentation
- *Grab* selection

Note that you must adhere to the radio style guide which will be provided.

Assignment 4 – Contribution to Edge Radio

This assignment will be based on your production of content for the *Journalists on the Edge* Radio program on *Edge Radio 99.3FM*. In the first week of tutorials, you will be rostered to provide a story idea and talent, and some written background for the JOTE production team. It will be your responsibility to find a suitable story, identify someone who can do an interview with the JOTE presenter or production team and to complete the story template for your rostered week. (A copy is provided below. A copy will also be available on VISTA for downloading). This will be given to the JOTE team which will be able to follow-up your idea for broadcast. This assignment will give you an idea of how a radio producer works and sharpen your story-gathering skills. You may also conduct the interview yourself and produce audio (for example, a *vox pop*) if you wish but this is not compulsory. A copy of your completed template is due ONE week after your rostered slot. This must be handed into the School office with a cover sheet attached. This assessment is worth 15% of your total marks. This assessment will assess Learning Outcome 5.

JOTE Story Idea
Student's Name: Student's Contact Number/Email: Tutorial Group:
Story Name: Brief Background Notes for JOTE Production Team: (You can also attach additional material such as media releases)
Justification for Story: (Why would Edge listeners be interested in this story?)
Talent's Name: Title/Position: Contact Details:
Any special notes : (For example, does it have a deadline for broadcast?)

Assignment 5 – Current Affairs Feature

For this assignment, please prepare and submit a current affairs feature of between five and seven minutes on CD for broadcast.

Your feature must be in the current affairs genre revolving around a central theme, with interviews, voice over and actuality, as well as natural sound and music (within the copyright limits allowed) if you wish. You are free to explore any topic that you feel would be of interest to young people in Tasmania. Ideas will be workshopped in class in the latter part of semester.

You should not just rely upon one interview for this item - you will need a minimum of two to ensure a diversity of voices and points of view. Radio News Features require lots of elements to sustain listener interest, so try for a variety of voices and sounds. Keep in mind that these packages are intended for broadcast, on Edge Radio, and therefore should be carefully checked for factual accuracy and to ensure that they don't contravene any laws or ethics relating to journalism practice. You must get your talent to sign informed consent forms before you interview them. These forms may be downloaded from the Vista homepage.

You must provide both an *introduction* script and the final packaged recording. I do not need to receive any raw recorded material - only submit the complete edited package. It should be timed accurately. You must conclude your documentary with recorded credits.

You will be given access to the Lab to complete production on this project. Note that you will not receive technical assistance – you need to handle the audio editing yourself. If you have your own production facilities you are most welcome to use those instead. If you choose to use the UTAS facilities, you should come with a full written script plus all sound on minidisc to ensure that your session runs efficiently and quickly. Keep lists of tracks so that time is not wasted getting to the right one. It may save time for you to have pre-recorded your VOs before your production session. This means that you must do most of the preparation before you do the final production work.

Marking criteria

- demonstrated radio writing skills, taking into account the style guide;
- ability to craft a compelling piece of radio storytelling suitable for broadcast;
- ability to obtain good on-location actuality;
- written presentation of scripts in the style recommended for this unit;
- grammar, spelling and punctuation;
- voice production; and
- basic audio editing ability.

The documentary part of this assignment is worth 40 per cent of your unit mark It is due on Friday 8 June 2007. Note that an extension would only be possible in extreme circumstances and students should consider this as an exam date. This assessment will assess all the Learning Outcomes for this unit.

Please note that the reason for making this assignment due at the end of swotvac is to take account of the fact that there is no exam in this subject and to give you a bit more time to prepare. However, if it is not convenient for you to be working on this assignment during swotvac, you should consider having it completed and handed in by the end of Week 13.

HEJ213/313 Reference List

Students must have access to, and read as required from, the following textbook :

Gail Phillips and Mia Lingdren

The Australian Broadcast Journalism Manual (2nd edition). Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2006.

This textbook is available from the Co-op Bookshop on campus. (You may want to think about a textbook sharing arrangement to reduce costs.) Copies will also be available in the Reserve Section of the Morris Miller Library.

The following texts have also been placed on Reserve and have been listed as additional material to assist you.

Stuart Cunningham and Graeme Turner (eds.)

The Media and Communications in Australia. St Leonards, NSW: Allen and Unwin, 2002.

Steve Ahearn (ed.)

Making Radio: A Practical Guide to Working in Radio. St. Leonards, NSW: Allen and Unwin, 2000.

Phillip Bell and Theo van Leewen.

The Media Interview: Confession, Contest and Conversation. Kensington, NSW: University of NSW Press, 1994.

The new text : Connect + Converge: Australian Media and Communications Law by Scott Beattie and Elizabeth Beal (Oxford University Press ,South Melbourne, 2007) is also highly recommended as a comprehensive outline of media law in Australia. It can be purchased at the Co-op Bookshop.

A list of websites is provided in your textbook (Phillips pp.351-352). Remember many of these websites now allow you to listen to radio on the net.

You will also need to visit Edge Radio's website at:

www.edgeradio.org.au.

To listen to radio during the semester in Hobart, here are some stations to tune into:

Edge Radio	99.3 FM
ABC Local Radio	936 AM
Triple J	92.9 FM
Classic FM	93.9 FM
Radio National	585 AM
NewsRadio	747 AM
HOFM	101.7 FM
Magic FM	107.3 FM
Sea FM	100.9 FM

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 or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) 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 submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

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
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

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 a brief introduction, please go to <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>. For journalistic writing, refer to the JMC Style Guide, also available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>.

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.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)