



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

HEJ411

Moral Panic

Semester 1, 2007

<http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>

<b>Convenor:</b>	Ms Nicola Goc Room: HUM 544 Phone: 6226 2473 Email: Nicola.Goc@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 4pm – 5pm Thursdays 4pm – 5pm
<b>Unit Description:</b>	Moral panic is a mass movement based on the false or exaggerated claims that some cultural behaviours or groups of people are dangerously deviant and pose a menace to society. These panics are generally fuelled by media coverage of social issues. This unit aims to provide students with an understanding of moral panic theory through the introduction of traditional and contemporary models and the analysis of case studies.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	This unit aims to provide students with a solid understanding of moral panic theory firstly through an analysis of Stanley Cohen's foundational study. Students will gain an understanding of moral panic theory through the introduction of traditional and contemporary models and the analysis of case studies. They will also gain the skills to critique the theories and interpretations of scholars in this field and to apply moral panic theory to contemporary news media.
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Students will gain an understanding of moral panic theory and through an analysis of case studies they will gain an understanding of how it applies to contemporary news media.
<b>Required Texts:</b>	Handouts will be provided in class.
<b>Recommended Texts:</b>	The following texts are on two-day loan at the Morris Miller Library: <i>Moral panics</i> . Kenneth Thompson. London: Routledge, 1998. <i>Moral panics: the social construction of deviance</i> . Erich Goode

	and Nachman Ben-Yehuda. Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 1994.
<b>When Taught:</b>	Wed 1.10pm – 4pm, SB.SocSci581 (weeks 1 – 9)
<b>Assessment:</b>	5000-word internal assignment(s) due Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May  This assessment will assess all of the Learning Outcomes for this Unit.

## LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Week One 28th Feb.	Introduction to Moral Panic Unit	Nicola Goc
Week Two 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Discussion of Stanley Cohen's Moral Panic Theory	Nicola Goc
Week Three 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Critique of Cohen's Moral Panic Theory	Nicola Goc
Week Four 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Critique of other Moral Panic Theorists	Nicola Goc
Week Five 28th March	Contemporary Moral Panics	Nicola Goc
Week Six 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Contemporary Moral Panics	Nicola Goc
Week Seven 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Presentations: students will give a brief presentation (15 minutes) on an issue to do with Moral Panic.	Nicola Goc
Week Eight 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Anzac Day: No teaching</b>	
Week Nine 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Overview of Moral Panic Theory	Nicola Goc
	<b>Study Period: 4-8 June</b>	
	<b>Examination Period: 9-26 June</b>	

### Attendance requirements

Regular seminar attendance is required and an attendance roll will be taken. To successfully complete this unit you need to satisfy the attendance requirements and complete all assessments.

## 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](http://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: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day. 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>.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:HelpDesk@utas.edu.au) or 6226 1818, within University 1818)