



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

HEJ607

Topic in Journalism

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>	This unit deals with a topic in journalism and draws on theory and/or practice to critically analyse an aspect of the field. It will vary according to the availability of staff. Prospective students should contact the School for further information.
<b>Unit Aims and Objectives:</b>	This unit offers students the opportunity to research a topic in the field of journalism which will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the practical and theoretical issues of the journalism discipline. Suitable students may be offered an industry placement as an alternative to a research project.
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>	Students through research and or through practical application will gain an understanding of the practical and theoretical issues of the journalism discipline.
<b>Required Texts:</b>	Appropriate handouts will be provided for students undertaking the research topic.
<b>Recommended Texts:</b>	<i>Practical Journalism: How to Write News</i> , Helen Sissons. London: Sage, 2006. Available at the Co-Op Bookshop.
<b>When Taught:</b>	Self-directed learning or placement as well as regular consultation with unit coordinator. Students may sit in on the Writing for Print seminar sessions which are held on Thursdays 1pm - 4pm in room Hum548.

**Assessment:**

5000 words internal assignments (100%)

The assignment(s) will assess all of the Learning Outcomes for this Unit.

## **ASSESSMENT**

**Research Topic in Journalism:** A 5,000-word research essay on an agreed topic: 100%.

The student will provide three proposed topics by 8<sup>th</sup> March and then, in consultation with the unit coordinator, will decide on a final topic for research no later than 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The student will attend at least four workshop sessions with the unit coordinator. The research essay is due on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 at 4pm.

**OR**

**Industry Placement:** Approximately 3,500 words of industry-based material and a 1,500 word analytical essay on the placement experience. The placement word count may be flexible in terms of the division of words between the industry material and the reflective essay, but the final word count must be no less than 5,000 words and the analytical essay must be no less than 1000 words. The placement material and essay is due on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 at 4pm.

## 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>.

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