



Faculty of Arts

HEJ506

Comparative Journalism Studies

Unit Outline

Semester One 2008

Lecturer: Dr Verica Rupar

Contact details

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Online unit URL

Log-in to MyLO at <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/> and then select **HEJ506**
Comparative journalism studies in the Course List.

You can contact your unit coordinator/lecturer and other students using the Discussions and Mail tools in this online unit.

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Unit Summary

Unit Code	HEJ506
Unit Title	Comparative Journalism studies
Unit Description	This unit investigates journalism across national boundaries. It uses a comparative case study approach as a research strategy to examine mechanisms by which journalism contributes to the production of meaning in society. The unit is designed to present information for critical thinking and discussion about the political, social and cultural experiences associated with contemporary news media. Drawing together a range of theoretical and methodological approaches, it offers an innovative approach to study of journalism in its international context
Special Notes	N/A
Teaching Staff	Dr Verica Rupar
Campus and mode	Fully online - H,I,L,W
Unit Weight	25%
Teaching Pattern	2 x 1 online seminar weekly
	<p>This is an online unit. It is designed based on the assumption that students will commit a minimum of 12 hours per week on reading, library research, and writing.</p> <p>Regular structured activities in the form of weekly tasks and assignments are posted on MyLO. All activities include online discussions on the HEJ506 MyLO Web site, for which student participation is compulsory.</p> <p>Details regarding these activities are provided in this unit outline, and duplicated on the unit Web site.</p>
Pre and Corequisites	Bachelor of Arts degree
Mutual Exclusions	N/A
Assessment	Research essay(s) totalling 10,000 words
Courses	N/A

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Critically assess competing theoretical approaches to journalism;
2. Critically examine the relationship between social context, news text and journalism practice in different news cultures;
3. Develop ideas, conduct and produce an original research project on journalism and meaning-making across national boundaries

These learning outcomes guide the assessment for this unit.

Graduate attributes

In your work for this unit you will develop knowledge and skills — or 'attributes' — applicable in a range of different contexts. These attributes will, by the successful completion of your course at UTAS, become your graduate attributes.

By taking this unit, students will:

1. build *knowledge* about different theoretical frameworks that provide tools for analysis of journalism production of meaning across national boundaries; develop the ability to recognize some of the political, institutional, and cultural factors that have shaped journalism production and output – both past and present, national and international. (see Learning outcome 1).
2. enhance skills in *communication* by developing online discussions about different forms of structuring and presenting complex arguments in the press, with particular reference to aspects of the construction and representation of reality. (see Learning outcome 2)
3. enhance skills in *problem solving* through assessment tasks and workshopping activities (see learning outcome 3); and
4. develop a *global perspective* through the analysis of cross-national journalism practice (see Learning outcomes 1,2 and 3)

Learning resources required

Required text

Loeffelholz, M and Weaver, D (eds.), 2008, *Global Journalism Research: Theories, Methods, Findings, Future* Blackwell, London.

Recommended reading

Allan, S 1999, *News culture*, Open University Press, Buckingham.

Barnhurst, K and Nerone, J 2001, *The form of news: a history*, Guilford Press, New York.

Bell, A 1991, *The language of news media*, Blackwell, Oxford.

Bourdieu, P 2002, *Outline of a theory of practice*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Breen, M (ed.) 1998, *Journalism: Theory and practice*, Macleay Press, Paddington.

Chalaby, J 1998, *The invention of journalism*, McMillan Press Ltd, London.

Conboy, M 2007, *The language of news*, Routledge, London.

Fairclough, N 1992, *Discourse and social change*, Polity Press, Cambridge.

Fairclough, N 1995. *Media discourse*, Edward Arnold, London.

Fowler, R 1991, *Language in the news*. Routledge, London.

Garrett, P and Bell, A (Eds.) 1998, *Approaches to media discourse*, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford.

Habermas, J 1989, *The structural transformation of the public sphere: an inquiry into a category of bourgeois society*, The MIT Press, Cambridge.

Hallin, D and Mancini, P 2004, *Comparing media systems: Three models of media and politics*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Kovach, B. and Rosenstiel, T. 2001. *The elements of journalism: What newspeople should know and the public should expect*, Crown Publishers, New York.

Krippendorff, K 1980. *Content analysis: an introduction to its methodology*, Sage Publications, London.

Manning, P 2001, *News and news sources: a critical introduction*, Sage Publications, London.

McNair, B 1998. *The sociology of journalism*. Arnold, London.

Schudson, M 1995, *The power of news*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

Schudson, M 2003, *The sociology of news*. W.W. Norton & Company, New York.

Van Dijk T 1988, *News analysis*, Lawrence Erlbaum, Hillsdale.

Zelizer, B 2004, *Taking journalism seriously: news and the academia*. Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks.

Unit reader

Lecture notes posted on MyLO.

Other publications and resources

Participants need to have completed a bachelors degree or equivalent, and be committed to self improvement in their teaching and other educational activities. It is expected that students will keep up with current events and get in the daily habit of reading several newspapers including, but not limited to the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Australian* and the *Mercury*.

Flexible library services

The Library offers a range of services if you are unable to visit the Library in person and if you meet certain criteria. See

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/libserv/rls/rls.html>

Technical requirements

Access to the online unit in MyLO is required. For information about online study, see

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

Accessing MyLO off campus

For information and help with setting up a computer and web browser to access online resources in MyLO when off campus, see

<http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/>

Need new software?

If you require software to access certain file types provided in your MyLO unit, see

<http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/software.htm>

About downloading and installing

The files you can access at download sites such as the UConnect download site (above) are software installers. These files need to be copied onto a computer and then run to install the software.

To obtain a copy of the installation software, you can:

1. Copy the file directly to a computer using a network Internet connection. If you are copying files to a home computer, you will need to use an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for this; or
2. Copy the files to a computer on campus that has a CD burner and burn the files to CD. The files can then be taken home and copied to the home computer from the CD. If you would like assistance with this, contact the UTAS Service Desk at
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Accessing MyLO on campus

MyLO can be accessed in the Library computers and in computer labs. See

http://www.utas.edu.au/itr/computing_labs.html

You can also access the University network and MyLO via a laptop computer. See

<http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/uana.htm>

Accessing files in your MyLO unit

A variety of file types may be provided in your online unit. For information to help you with accessing different file types such as MP3 audio files, see

http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/flexarts/module_intro.html

Getting help

For technical information and help, contact the UTAS Service Desk at

<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Details of teaching arrangements

Three forms of regular structured activities are prescribed in this unit:

WEEKLY TASKS: Students are asked to engage with the text book, the lecture notes posted on MyLO, and with a number of further readings, suggested in the reading list and found through their own research into the topic. They are encouraged to discuss the readings on the HEJ506 Web site.

The weekly readings will help students critically assess the competing theoretical approaches to journalism, and to find persuasive arguments that their chosen approach to their individual comparative journalism studies project is appropriate.

This activity relates to Assignment 2 (Annotated bibliography). It is strongly recommended that students develop a web discussion on the journalism concepts involved.

It is expected that total length of posts is not less than 1000 words.

Students MUST respond to at least 80% of all weekly tasks in order to pass the unit.

CHAT: There will be three online gatherings - weeks 1, 6 and 13. Please see details in the Unit Schedule

ASSIGNMENTS: Research essay(s) totalling 10,000 words. Please see the Assessment column.

Discussions

In this unit, you will be communicating with other students and your lecturer via MyLO Discussions. These discussions will provide a forum for you to ask questions, present your views and receive timely feedback. You will be able to read and contribute to Discussions topics weekly at times that are convenient for you and by date specified in this outline.

How to use MyLO Discussions

For comprehensive information on accessing and using the MyLO Discussions tool, browse the help resources at:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/mylo-support.htm>

Useful files on Discussions include:

[Using the discussion tool \[Word, 66 kb \]](#) Step-by-step guide

(http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using_discus_stepguide.doc)

[Using the discussion tool \[Word, 43 kb \] Quick guide](#)

(http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using_discus_quick.doc)

If you find that you require further assistance in accessing the Discussions, contact

Help and Support at Learning Online

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

or contact Verica Rupar.

Attaching files to messages

If required, you may attach a Word file (or other file type) with information supporting your message.

Naming files

File names must not contain spaces or symbols. It is safest to use only numbers and letters of the alphabet. Files must have an extension (e.g. .htm .doc .pdf)

For information on using attachments, browse the help resources at:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/mylo-support.htm>

A useful file on attachments is:

[Using attachments in mail and discussions \[Word, 455 kb \] Step-by-step guide](#)

(http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/attach_email_disc_step.doc)

Getting started with Discussions

When you access your MyLO unit **HEJ506 Comparative journalism studies**, select the Welcome link on the Home Page. Read the message/s that have been posted and post your own reply.

You can then begin to work on Module 1 and post messages to the Discussion topics that appear in the module.

General suggestions on participating

The following suggestions will help you get the most out of your Discussions.

- Stay current and timely with your work. Visit Discussion topics regularly and read all new messages. Respond constructively and with substance to messages that have meaning for you.

- Take risks! Your participation is the most important aspect of online Discussions. You will be assessed on whether you are communicating with others and grappling with the concepts being discussed. Your responses are not all expected to be 'brilliant'; sometimes you may not understand something under study. Use the Discussions to help you clarify your own understanding.

(Many times other students may have the same questions you have — discussing it will help with everyone's understanding!)

- Try to keep your messages reasonably short (between 100–200 words), and spend between 10 to 25 minutes on writing a message.
- Be considerate when you comment on someone else's work or posting. The written word is unable to carry the nuances of the spoken word, so be gentle. (For instance, do not use all capitals, as this is considered to be 'shouting' online.)

Messages can be drafted outside of MyLO (using a word processor such as Microsoft Word) and copied and pasted into a message. (This enables you to spell-check your messages, and may save you Internet access costs.)

Chat

In this unit, you will be communicating with other students and your lecturer via MyLO Chat. Chat sessions will be held in Week 1 (Friday 29/02 10am-12pm), Week 6 (Friday, 11/04, 10am-12pm) and Week 13 (Friday 30/05, 10am-12pm).

How to use MyLO Chat

For information on using the MyLO Chat tool, see

[Using the chat/whiteboard tool \[Word, 71 kb\]](#) Step-by-step guide

(http://tlo.calt.utas.edu.au/secure/content/using_chat_stepguide.doc)

Unit schedule

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
PART ONE: JOURNALISM AND SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT		
Week 1	<p>Introduction to comparative journalism studies</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To introduce the discipline of journalism studies and to propose using the concept of objectivity as a framework for comparison of journalism across national boundaries; to introduce the unit.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> journalism, objectivity.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Select two daily newspapers and compare their front pages.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 1 (posted on MyLO) and Part 1 of the text book (“Global Journalism Research”, Loffelholz & Weaver, 2008).</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and comparison of two daily newspapers post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What is journalism?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 29/02</p> <p>3. LIVE ONLINE FORUM: Please go to the HEJ506 MyLO Web site and join the Online forum on Friday 29/02, 10:00am-12:00pm. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
Week 2	<p>Historical development of the objectivity norm</p> <p><u>Objective</u>: to encourage critical examination of the historical development of the objectivity norm in its cultural context.</p> <p><u>Key concepts</u>: objectivity, news culture.</p> <p><u>Activity</u>: Take a look at the web sites of two national associations of journalism and compare and contrast their content.</p> <p>Beginning Assignment 1</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 2 (posted on MyLO) and Chapters 2 and 4 of the text book (“Theoretical Approaches to Journalism”, Loffelholz & Weaver, and “Journalism as human right”, Hartley)</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and comparison of two websites, post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Why does journalism serve different purposes and appear in different forms in different countries?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 07/03</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>
Week 3	<p>Journalism and meaning-making: mapping the journalistic field</p> <p><u>Objective</u>: to critically discuss theoretical frameworks for investigating the field of journalism.</p> <p><u>Key concepts</u>: field, habitus, capital.</p> <p><u>Activity</u>: Select a news event and compare its representation on two television channels (e.g. ABC and WIN).</p> <p>Ongoing Assignment 1</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 3 (posted on MyLO) and Bourdieu (2005). The political field, the social science field, and The journalistic field. In R. Benson and E. Neveu, <i>Bourdieu and the journalistic field</i>, (pp.29-48). Cambridge: Polity Press.</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and comparison of two television programs post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>How do political, social and economic interests influence the content of news?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 14/03</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
Week 4	<p>Study of journalism culture</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To discuss in an informed manner a specific journalism culture.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> journalism ideology.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> find an interview with an award winning journalist; identify their understanding of the role of the press in society;</p> <p>Ongoing Assignment 1</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 4 (Broersma posted on MyLO) and Chapter 8 of the text book (“Comparing journalism across national boundaries”, Hanitzsch, 2007).</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and analysis of a specific journalism style, post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p><i>How does ‘news’ style of reporting contribute to the development of the public sphere? Make comparisons with the ‘reflective’ news style.</i></p> <p>COMPULSORY DUE: Wednesday 19/03</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, or assignments.</p> <p>ENCOURAGED</p>
<p>Easter Break – 20-26 March</p>		

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
PART TWO: NEWS ANALYSIS		
Week 5	<p>Content analysis</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to develop an understanding of the method of content analysis in the study of journalism.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> categories, codes, and reliability check.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> select a text from a newspaper and identify categories for comparison.</p> <p>Finish Assignment 1</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 5 (posted on MyLO) and Chapter 10 of the text book (“Content Analysis”, Colmer)</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and identification of categories, post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What is included in the process of the establishment of categories for content analysis?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 04/04</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>
Week 6	<p>Discourse analysis</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to develop an understanding of the method of content analysis in the study of journalism.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> Language, knowledge, power.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Make a selection of headlines from your case study for the final essay and discuss how the language used constructs the meaning for that event.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 6, Conboy’s (2007) text (both posted on MyLO), and posted readings.</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and analysis of the headlines post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question;</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>How does the language of these headlines serve to reinforce the identity of the newspaper and indicate the preferred meaning of the stories?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 11/04</p> <p>3. LIVE ONLINE FORUM Friday 11/04, 10:0am-12:00pm</p> <p>Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
Week 7	<p>Survey and interview</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to develop an understanding of the method of survey and interview in the study of journalism.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> journalism ideology.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Prepare a questionnaire for the imagined survey you would conduct with the journalists in the newspapers that serve as a case study for your final essay.</p> <p>Due Assignment 2</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the lecture notes for Week 7 (posted on MyLO), Chapter 9 of the text book ("Methods of Journalism research", Weaver, 2008) and posted readings. 2. Post your questionnaire on the HEJ506 Web site by Wednesday 16/04, 5pm. 3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with your and other students' questionnaires; Discuss the issue of semi-structured interviews. <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 18/04</p>
Week 8	<p>Observation</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to develop an understanding of the method of survey and interview in the study of journalism.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> newsroom organization.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> find an academic journal article that uses observation for the analysis of journalism practice, post it on the HEJ505 Web site via email.</p> <p>NB. Friday 25 April – Anzac Day Public Holiday</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the lecture notes for Week 8 (posted on MyLO) and Chapter 11 of the text book ("Introduction to Journalism Methods - Observation", Quandt, 2007). 2. On the basis of your reading post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question: <i>How do concepts of news organization vary across the world?</i> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Thursday 24/04</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments. <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
PART THREE: JOURNALISM PRACTICE		
Week 9	<p>Sources</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To critically evaluate the interaction between journalists and sources.</p> <p><u>Key concept:</u> source of information.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Take one world event and read foreign correspondents' reports on that event in two different world newspapers (the <i>Guardian</i> and The <i>Australian</i> for example). Identify the sources used. What other sources of information should be used? List the questions the journalists asked. List the questions that are not answered.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 9 (posted on MyLO), Chapter 3 of the text book ("Journalism in a Globalizing World Society", Ruhl) and posted readings.</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and comparison of foreign correspondents reports ' post a note on the discussion board that addresses the questions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What is the pattern of privileging authoritative voices in the news? What are the consequences? How does it relate to the specifics of the news culture?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 02/05</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>
Week 10	<p>Newsgathering</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to introduce various techniques in gathering information; to discuss how the transparency of newsgathering shapes the news.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> newsgathering.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Study the newspapers that serve as a case study for your final essay. Identify the differences in the way journalism's intervention in reality is described.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Read the lecture notes for Week 10 (posted on MyLO) and the article "How did you find it out?" (Rupar, 2006).</p> <p>2. On the basis of your reading and study of newspapers post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>How does the transparency of newsgathering shape the news?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 09/05</p> <p>3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
Week 11	<p>Frame</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To enable students to develop and practice techniques of scholarship and analysis with regard to framing the news.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> frame.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Study the newspapers that serve as a case study for your final essay. Identify the differences in the way the headlines and the leads define the angle of the story.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the lecture notes for Week 11 (posted on MyLO). 2. On the basis of your reading and analysis of daily newspapers, post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What influences the choice of frame?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 16/05</p> 3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments. <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>
Week 12	<p>Facts and views</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> to discuss journalism and the creation of social knowledge.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u> journalism epistemology.</p> <p><u>Activity:</u> Study the newspapers that serve as a case study for your final essay. Identify the ways journalists handle the issue of separation of facts and views in the texts.</p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the lecture notes for Week 12 (posted on MyLO) and “Newspapers and common sense” (Rupar, 2007). 2. On the basis of your reading and comparison of newspapers, post a note on the discussion board that addresses the question: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>What is the function of the editorial in a newspaper?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Friday 23/05</p> 3. Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments. <p style="text-align: center;">ENCOURAGED</p>

Date	Topic/Activity	Further information
Week 13	<p>Wrapping up</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> To develop discussion about the content of the unit and encourage students to reflect upon their learning experience; to clarify any questions in relation to the last assignment and discuss the draft projects.</p> <p><u>Key concepts:</u></p> <p><u>Activity:</u></p>	<p>TASKS:</p> <p>1. Post a draft of your final research essay on the HEJ506 Web site</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY DUE: Tuesday, 27/05</p> <p>2. LIVE ONLINE FORUM: Discuss any questions, issues or concerns you have with the content of the unit, readings, current affairs stories, tasks, assignments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPULSORY Friday 30/05, 10:00-12:00</p>
Study Period: 2-6 June		FINAL ESSAY DUE: Friday, June 6
Examination Period: 7-24 June		

Specific attendance/performance requirements

This unit has a weight of 25%. As a general guide, you will need to spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit to meet its work requirements. This work includes reading, discussions and assignment work.

Learning expectations and strategies

Expectations

The University is committed to high standards of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers.

The University's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning states:

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

Learning strategies

If you need assistance in preparing for study please refer to your lecturer. For additional information, see:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/students/>

Assessment

The assessment for this unit is ongoing. It is recommended that you read about all assessment tasks before choosing the newspaper that will serve as your case study.

Assessment schedule

Assessment task	Date due	Percent weighting
Assessment task 1: Development of the research project	Weeks 2-5	10%
Assessment task 2: Annotated bibliography	Week 7 Friday, April 18	30%
Assessment task 3: Research essay	Week after semester ends Friday, June 6	60%
Final exam		

Assessment details

Assessment task 1: Development of the research project	
Task description	<p>Your task is to gradually develop your final research essay. Starting from Week 2 you are asked to post the following details about your final essay:</p> <p>Week 2 (by Friday March 7): Project title and 100 word description of a case study</p> <p>Week 3 (by Friday March 14): Thesis statement, 250 words</p> <p>Week 4: (by Wednesday March 19): Research questions, not more than three questions, up to 150 words</p> <p>Week 5 (by Friday April 4): Methodology, 500 words</p> <p>You are also required to post a concise message (maximum 300 words) to the online discussion board</p>

	<p>briefly outlining your dilemmas in relation to the project.</p> <p>Respond to at least one posting from a colleague in your class.</p>
Task length	1000 words
Links to learning outcomes	<p>Learning outcome 3</p> <p>The objective is to develop an understanding of issues involved in planing and structuring a focussed research project on a specific topic in comparative journalism studies.</p>
Assessment criteria / guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Presentation • Use of relevant journalism studies concepts • Interaction with other students. <p>The performance standards for these criteria will be posted on MyLO.</p>
Date due	Fridays in weeks 2-5

Assessment task 2: Annotated bibliography	
Task description	<p>Write a list of citations for books, articles, and documents. Each citation should be followed by a brief (usually about 250 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to critically evaluate the relevance, and quality of the sources you are using for your final essay. Please follow the instructions posted on the MyLO HEJ506 Web site.</p>
Task length	3000 words
Links to learning outcomes	<p>Learning outcome 1</p> <p>The objective is to critically evaluate the essential concepts, principles and techniques used in Journalism Studies research.</p>

Assessment criteria / guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Presentation • Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant journalism concepts • Quality of evaluation • Relevance to the research project <p>The performance standards for these criteria will be posted on MyLO.</p>
Date due	Week 7 (Friday, April 18)

Assessment task 3: Research essay	
Task description	<p>Choose one current affairs topic presented in two different newspapers over one month. Newspapers can be from two countries; or from the same country but one local, one global; or the papers have different owners; or one is a broadsheet, and the other a tabloid newspaper. Your task is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. identify differences and similarities in the use of journalistic norms in relation to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) form b) sources c) newsgathering method and d) frame 2. compare and contrast the construction of meaning in the two newspapers. 3. critically discuss the relationship between the concept of objectivity and journalism culture. 4. analyse the connection between journalism practice and the wider context of news. <p>The research method should include, but is not limited to, content analysis and critical discourse analysis. Your essay should be based on: discussion of key journalism concepts; analysis of news text; and relevant readings in this subject.</p>

Task length	6000 words
Links to learning outcomes	Learning outcomes 1,2 and 3 The objective is to identify and analyse connections between journalism practice and the wider cognitive, social, cultural, political and historical context of the news.
Assessment criteria / guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Presentation • Demonstrated knowledge of the field of study • Ability to carry out an independent investigation • Quality of analysis • Adherence to the recommended reference style (Harvard) in regards to academic composition, presentation and referencing <p>The performance standards for these criteria will be posted on MyLO.</p>
Date due	Week after semester ends (Friday, June 6)

How your final result is determined

To pass this unit you will need to achieve a pass or more (i.e. 50% of the allocated marks) on the in-semester work.

Grades will be awarded based on University guidelines; namely:

Failure	0-49%
Pass	50-59%
Credit	60-69%
Distinction	70-79%
High distinction	80%-100%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Submission of assignments

All work submitted for assessment must conform to the requirements of the School of English, Journalism and European languages and the JMC Style Guide, available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>.

For journalistic assignments, you must not use material gathered for a story, including interviews, for assessment in more than one unit. If in doubt, please discuss with your unit coordinator.

Assignments should be submitted:

- **as an electronic file** via MyLO HEJ506 unit's Assignment tool.

A completed 'Faculty of Arts Assignment Cover Sheet' file **must** be included as an attachment when submitting assignment files. 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.

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.

Penalties

Should you experience difficulty in completing your assignment by the due date, please contact the unit coordinator, prior to the submission date. 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.

Academic referencing

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity.

Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence.

The appropriate referencing method for this unit is the Harvard (author-date) system of referencing. A guide to brief guide to the Harvard system of referencing can also be found on the Journalism, Media and Communications website:

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

For information on presentation of assignments, including referencing methods, see:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa.html>

Please read the following statement on plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

Plagiarism

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.

For further information on this statement and general referencing guidelines, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism/>

Or follow the link under 'Policy, Procedures and Feedback' on the **Current Students** homepage.

Occupational health and safety (OH&S)

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. In addition to specific requirements of this unit you should refer to the University's policy at:

http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf

Further information and assistance

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness that may affect your course of study, you are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

A range of University-wide support services are available to you including Teaching and Learning, Student Services, and International Services. Please refer to the **Current Students** homepage at:

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

Should you require assistance in accessing the Library visit their website for more information at:

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

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/libserv/rls/rls.html>