



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ209/309
Ethics in Journalism
Semester 2, 2008
www.utas.edu.au/journalism

Convenor:	Dr Nicola Goc Room: HUM 544 Phone: 6226 2473 Email: Nicola.Goc@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Thursday 2pm-4pm Room Hum544 Friday 3pm-4pm Room Hum544
Unit Description:	Students examine the basic conflicts of principle and practice confronting journalists, such as the competing claims of privacy and the public's right-to-know, the justification of censorship against the demands of freedom of expression, the reporting of minorities, commercial pressures, confidentiality of sources and bias v. balance. At a time when the role and the responsibilities of the media is an increasing focus of public debate, students will also evaluate the competitive commercial environment in the media which encourages breaches of ethics.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	This unit aims to encourage students to think about the ethical implications of professional practice in terms of news journalism. Students will acquire skills in moral literacy and reasoning relevant to the practise of news journalism.
Learning Outcomes:	At the end of this unit, students should: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. have an understanding of the ethical issues which news journalists encounter in their daily work;2. be able to critically analyse the challenges of ethical practice in the production of news;3. understand the ethical and production issues involved in the creation of news; and4. understand and critique the importance and relevance of unethical practice within the Fourth Estate model of the production of news.
Required Texts:	<i>Journalism Ethics</i> , Hirst and Patching. Available at the Co-op Bookshop and on reserve at the Morris Miller Library.

Recommended Texts:	<i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i> , Stephen Tanner, Gail Phillips, Chris Smyth and Suellen Tapsall. Available at the Co-op Bookshop and on reserve at the Morris Miller Library.
When Taught:	<p>Lectures: Wednesday 12:00 – 2:00pm, SB.Engg201.LT</p> <p>Tutorials: Wed 2.10pm-3.00pm, Law 131 Wed 3.10pm-4.00pm, Law 131 Thu 1.10pm-2.00pm, SB Art 201 (Media Lab)</p> <p>Tutorials are offered at a variety of times. Students will be instructed on how to sign up for a tutorial group at the first lecture. Tutorials begin in the second week of semester (week 15).</p>
Assessment:	1,500-word essay (20%), tutorial participation (10%), media monitoring project (including 1,500-word report) (30%), 2-hr exam (40%).

PLEASE NOTE: Lectures can be accessed through Lectopia at the end of each week. The Lectopia URL is: <http://ilecture.utas.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=127>
All students enrolled in this unit can access this facility.

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Notes
Week 14 July 16	Introduction to Journalism Ethics	Sign up to tutorials
Week 15 July 23	Moral Philosophy	Tutorials begin
Week 16 July 30	Moral Philosophy and Codes of Ethics	Tutorial Test 1 – 3% <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics - Arguments and Cases</i> : Chapter Four: “On the Fault Line.”
Week 17 Aug. 6	Private Lives, Public Right to Know	Assignment 1 due Monday 11 August. <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics - Arguments and Cases</i> : Chapter Seven: “Privacy and the Public Right to Know.” Fine Line: Episode One
Week 18 Aug. 13	News Journalism and Trauma DART Centre for Journalism and Trauma	Read APC material for next week.
Week 19 Aug. 20	Australian Press Council Seminar	APC guests: Deb Kirkman and Cheryl Attenborough
Week 20	Lies, Deception and Plagiarism.	Tutorial Test 2 – 3% <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics - Arguments and Cases</i> : Chapter 10: “Issues of Deception.”
Mon 1 Sep – Fri 5 Sep Mid-Semester Break		
Week 21 Sept. 10	Unethical Journalism: Stephen Glass	
Week 22 Sept. 17	Gendered News, Reporting Race and Minorities Fine Line – Episode Five.	Assignment 2 due Monday 22 September. <u>Readings:</u> <i>Journalism Ethics at Work</i> , Stephen Tanner, Gail Phillips, Chris Smyth and Suellen Tapsall. Chapter Ten: “Race and Gender.”

Week 23 Sept. 24	Chequebook Journalism, Conflict of Interest	Readings: <i>Journalism Ethics - Arguments and Cases</i> : Chapter 10: "Issues of Deception." Fine Line – Episode Three
Week 24 Oct. 1	News Images and Ethical Journalism Fine Line – Episode Four	
Week 25 Oct. 8	Ethical Journalism: A Case Study: Veronica Guerin	Tutorial Test 3 – 4%
Week 26 Oct. 15	Review of Unit and Exam	
	Study Period: 20-24 October	
	Examination Period: 25 October - 11 November	

ASSESSMENT

One 1,000-word essay: 20%. Due Monday 11 August at 4pm.

One media monitoring project and 2,000-word essay: 30%. Due Monday 22 September 4pm.

Tutorial participation: three short tests total: 10%

A two-hour exam in the exam period: 40%

All writing in this unit should follow the JMC Program Style Guide.

All assessments for this unit will assess learning outcomes 1-4.

EQUIPMENT

We encourage you, where possible, to purchase your own recording devices. This will allow you to carry out media work in the field to supplement and support theoretical work.

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 the Harvard style of referencing. Please see <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/> for a brief introduction. For journalistic writing, refer to the JMC Style Guide, also 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.

Equipment

Please note that this unit may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment and that while the school will provide access to equipment during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan. We encourage students, where possible, to purchase their own recording devices. Teaching staff will advise on suitable equipment.

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)