



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ222 Journalism: the People's Witness

Semester 2, 2009

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

Unit coordinator:	Dr Nicola Goc	
Contact details:	Room:	544
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
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Consultation times:	Thursday: 2pm-3pm Friday: 12noon-1pm Or by appointment.	

<p>Unit description:</p>	<p>Focuses on the writings of journalists whose work significantly impacted on the times in which they were reporting. Students examine the reportage of political journalists, war correspondents, social commentators and novelist journalists. There is an emphasis on the reportage of military conflict from the Napoleonic campaign to present day conflict, and on the reportage of political and social issues including poverty, racism, the civil rights movement and the women's movement. Journalists to be studied include William Russell, Martha Gellhorn, Wilfred Burchett, Joan Didion, Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, John Hersey, Ernest Hemingway, George Orwell, H.G. Wells, John Simpson, Svetlana Alexiyevich, James Cameron and Christopher Hitchens.</p>
<p>Unit aims and objectives:</p>	<p>This unit will give students a greater understanding of the important role of journalism in society. Its aim is to provide students, through the critical analysis of journalism texts, with an understanding of how journalists scrutinise the powerful, inform citizens, support democracy and can, through journalism practice, bring about positive changes.</p>

<p>Learning outcomes:</p>	<p>On successful completion of this subject students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of the practice of the journalists studied in this unit; 2. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the life and times in which the journalists studied in this unit worked, and 3. Effectively communicate in writing an understanding of the topics studied in this unit.
<p>Required texts:</p>	<p>Unit Reader: HEJ222 The People’s Witness</p> <p>Note: Required texts are stocked by and can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop online or on campus. The library also holds copies of all required texts on reserve.</p>
<p>Recommended texts:</p>	<p>Biographies or collections of the works of the journalist you will write about in your essay. Hobart has some excellent second-hand bookshops and charity shops; and also check with the co-op and the library.</p>
<p>Timetable:</p>	<p>The timetable for this unit can be viewed online at: http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/coursesenrolment/timetable/</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>3,000-word essay (40%), tutorial participation two short tests (10%), 2-hr exam (50%)</p>

LECTURE / SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	
14	16 July	Introduction to the unit	Nicola Goc No tutorials
15	23 July	Reporting Conflict: 1914-1938 World War One & Spanish Civil War: Orwell & Hemmingway	Nicola Goc Ch 1 Reader
16	30 July	Reporting Conflict: 1939-1979 World War Two and Vietnam	Nicola Goc Ch 2 Reader
17	6 August	Reporting Conflict: 1980-2009 USSR – the aftermath, China, Iraq, Timor and Afghanistan	Nicola Goc John Martinkus Ch 3 Reader Tutorial Test One this week. You need to have chosen a journalist for your essay for next week's tutorial.
18	13 August	Social Justice Journalism: Orwell, Steinbeck, Gellhorn	Nicola Goc Ch 4 Reader Bring brief notes to tutorial on your chosen journalist this week.

19	20 August	Social Justice Journalism: Jack, Masters and others	Nicola Goc Ch 5 Reader
20	27 August	Reporting Race in America: Gellhorn, Baldwin and others	Nicola Goc Ch 6 Reader
Mid-semester break: 31 Aug – 6 Sep 2009			
21	10 Sept.	Reporting Race in Australia	Nicola Goc Ch 7 Reader Essay due Friday 11 September @ 4pm
22	17 Sept.	Social Justice Reporting: The Women's Movement Didion	Nicola Goc Ch 8 Reader
23	24 Sept.	Watergate: Woodward & Bernstein	Nicola Goc Ch 9 Reader
24	1 October	The 'New' Journalism: Dickens, Stead, Thompson, Wolfe, Didion, Carter, Capote	Nicola Goc Ch 10 Reader Tutorial Test Two this week
25	8 October	Reporting Place and Environment	Nicola Goc Ch 11 Reader
26	15 October	Unit Review and Exam preparation	Nicola Goc
Study week: 19 – 23 Oct 2009			
Exam period: 24 Oct – 10 Nov 2009			

ASSESSMENT

Task	Due	Percentage
Tutorial Test 1	Conducted in tutorials in week 17.	5%
Essay: 3,000-essay	Essay choice work-shopped in tutorials in week 18. Essay due 11 th September at 4pm.	40%
Tutorial Test 2	Conducted in tutorials in week 24.	5%
2-hour exam		50%

Assessment task 1	
Task description	Tutorial Test: Written short-answer tutorial test that draws upon the lectures and readings from weeks 15, 16, 17.
Task length	Ten minute short answer written test conducted in the tutorials in week 17. Students must be in attendance to take the test. It is worth 5% of your total mark for this unit.
Links to learning outcomes	The tutorial test will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
Assessment criteria	To complete this test you should: 1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the key journalists studied in weeks 15,16 and 17.

Assessment task 2	
Task description	Essay: Write a 3,000-word biography on a journalist of your choice in consultation with your tutor. You cannot write on journalists featured in the lectures. You must decide on a journalist and bring a brief 50-word outline to the tutorial in Week 18. In your essay you will need to focus on how the journalist's practice and in particular their writing was influential, how it made a difference, how it informed society, and if and/or how it brought about change. The essay is worth 40% of the total mark for this unit.
Task length	3,000 words
Links to learning outcomes	At the completion of this assignment the student should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a solid understanding of one journalist's practice. 2. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of how the journalist's writing has had a significant impact on the times in which they lived. 3. Demonstrate ability to closely read and critically analysis a substantial body of a journalist's written work.
Assessment criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflect a solid understanding of journalism practice. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of how a particular

	<p>journalist's writing has had a significant impact on the times in which they lived.</p> <p>3. Effectively communicate knowledge through writing.</p> <p>4. Critically analyse journalistic texts.</p>
Submission instructions	Hardcopy through the SEJEL office.

Assessment task 3	
Task description	Tutorial Test: Written short-answer tutorial test that draws upon the lectures and readings from weeks 22, 23, 24. It is worth 5% of your total mark for this unit.
Task length	Ten-minute short answer test conducted in the tutorials in week 24. Students must be in attendance to take the test.
Links to learning outcomes	The tutorial test will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3.
Assessment criteria	To complete this test you should be able to demonstrate and apply knowledge of the key journalists studied in weeks 22, 23 and 24.

Assessment task 4	
Task description	Written exam

Task length	2 hours
Links to learning outcomes	<p>This exam will assess the students' ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of the practice of the journalists studied in this unit; 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the power of the journalist to communicate news and events to the public through the written word. 3. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the life and times in which the journalists studied in this unit worked, and 4. Effectively communicate in writing an understanding of the topics studied in this unit.
Assessment criteria	<p>This exam will assess a student's ability to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the journalists studied in this unit and 2. Reflect a solid understanding of journalism practice; 3. Demonstrate knowledge of how the writing of the journalists studied writings has had a significant impact on the times in which they lived; 4. Effectively communicate knowledge through writing; and to 5. Critically analyse journalistic texts.

School of English, Journalism and European Languages
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, 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 should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Late assignments

Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

Honours and postgraduate research project units (400 and 700 level)

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.

Return of marked 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. In some cases, particularly where an assignment is the final, exam equivalent piece of assessment, the marked assignment may not be returned until after final unit results have been released.

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.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>. 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.

Referencing

The English, French and German disciplines and the Screen Studies major use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

Marking scale

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

Honours

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.

Equipment loans

Please note that some units taught in the school may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment. Although access to equipment may be provided 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.

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 Student Services staff as soon as possible. Please see <http://www.studentservices.utas.edu.au> for more information about the support services available to students.

IT support

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

IT help desk: <http://www.utas.edu.au/service/sdesk/student/index.html>