



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

## Unit Outline

### HEJ414 Reading in Journalism, Media and Communications

Semester 2, 2009

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

<b>Unit coordinator:</b>	Dr Craig Norris	
<b>Contact details:</b>	Room:	536
	Building:	Social Sciences
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
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<b>Consultation times:</b>	Thursday 10.00am – 12.50pm	
<b>Unit description:</b>	<p>This unit offers students the opportunity to examine in-depth a topic in journalism, media and communications by undertaking supervised research. Intensive workshops early in semester focus on developing advanced skills in media research: project conception and planning, information literacy, essay writing and presentation. Students meet regularly with a supervisor throughout the remainder of semester. Approval of the Head of School is required to enrol in this unit.</p>	

<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<p>'Reading in JMC' offers an environment for students to develop an understanding of the following learning outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate researching and writing skills appropriate for Honours Level.</li> <li>2. Reflect on current theory and practices within journalism, media and communications studies.</li> <li>3. Critical examination of a journalism, media and communications issue</li> </ol>
<b>Timetable:</b>	Fortnightly supervision meetings.
<b>Assessment:</b>	8500 word assignment/s as agreed with supervisor

#### ASSESSMENT

<b>Task</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Percent</b>
8500 word assignment/s as agreed with supervisor	Individual assessment deadlines are to be determined by the supervisor.	100%

<b>Assessment tasks</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	8500 word assignment/s as agreed with supervisor.
<b>Task length</b>	Totalling 8500 words
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This assessment will assess Learning Outcomes 1-3.
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Research skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of well-developed information retrieval skills</li> <li>• Evidence of familiarity with previous and recent work in the field of inquiry</li> <li>• Ability to identify relevant materials</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Clarity and strength of analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to construct an engaging, persuasive analysis</li> <li>• Capacity to develop and sustain the analysis throughout the assignment</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Contribution to knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of independent thinking</li> <li>• Contribution to knowledge or understanding of a subject as appropriate to Honours level</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Structure and writing style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to structure the assignment in a clear and logical way</li> <li>• Ability to write lucidly</li> <li>• Accuracy of grammar, punctuation and spelling</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b>Presentation and observation of scholarly conventions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of layout and general presentation</li> <li>• Correctness of referencing techniques</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

## 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/servicedesk/student/index.html>