



School of English, Journalism  
& European Languages

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## Unit Outline

### HEJ606 Advanced Journalism

Semester 2, 2009

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

<b>Unit coordinator:</b>	Ms Miranda Harman	
<b>Contact details:</b>	Room:	546
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
	Telephone:	(03) 6226 7146
	Email:	Miranda.Harman@utas.edu.au
<b>Consultation times:</b>	Tuesday, 2pm – 5pm	

<p><b>Unit description:</b></p>	<p>This unit examines narrative techniques in non-fiction writing to give students both a basis for understanding the many varieties of journalistic writing and also a range of journalistic writing options for their own work. Students examine various writing genres, such as the essay, reportage and literary journalism. Students are required to undertake a scholarly analysis of journalistic writing that uses narrative techniques. Students are also expected to produce substantial pieces of non-fiction writing and to reflect on and constructively critique their research and writing processes to develop the skills required to write advanced journalism.</p>
<p><b>Unit aims and objectives:</b></p>	<p>At the end of this unit, you should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• produce journalistic writing at an advanced level;</li> <li>• identify and critically analyse a variety of journalistic writing;</li> <li>• constructively critique the research and writing of fellow students;</li> <li>• pitch, research and write a feature story of publishable standard; and</li> <li>• understand past and present media environments and the place of non-fiction narrative writing.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Learning outcomes:</b></p>	<p>By taking this unit, you will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. build <i>knowledge</i> and enhance skills in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above);</li> <li>2. enhance skills in <i>communication</i>, both written and oral, through assignments and workshops;</li> <li>3. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and workshopping activities; and</li> <li>4. develop a <i>global perspective</i> through the analysis of texts from a range of national and cultural contexts.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Required texts:</b></p>	<p>Unit Reader</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>Unit Reader readings will be discussed and analysed each week in seminars. You must also read and analyse at least one piece of journalism of your choice each week and be prepared to discuss in seminars.</p>

<p><b>Recommended texts:</b></p>	<p>(on Reserve in the Morris Miller Library)</p> <p>Carey, John, ed. <i>The Faber Book of Reportage</i>. London: Faber and Faber, 1987.</p> <p>Dunlevy, Maurice. <i>Feature Writing</i>. Geelong, Vic: Deakin University, 1988.</p> <p>Granato, Len. <i>Newspaper Feature Writing</i>. Geelong, Vic: Deakin University, 1999.</p> <p>Jackson, Dennis, and John Sweeney, eds. <i>The Journalist's Craft: A Guide to Writing Better Stories</i>. New York: Allworth Press, 2002.</p> <p>Kaplan, Bruce. <i>Editing Made Easy</i>. Camberwell, Vic: Penguin Books, 2003.</p> <p>Ricketson, Matthew. <i>Writing Feature Stories</i>. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen &amp; Unwin, 2004.</p> <p>Sedorkin, Gail, and Judy McGregor. <i>Interviewing: A Guide for Journalists and Writers</i>. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen &amp; Unwin, 2002.</p> <p>Strunk, William, and E.B. White. <i>The Elements of Style</i>. 4th ed. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, 2000.</p> <p>Wolfe, Tom. <i>The New Journalism</i>. London: Picador, 1973.</p>
<p><b>Timetable:</b></p>	<p>One weekly seminar</p> <p>Monday 10am – 11.50am</p>
<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p>2500 word publishable essay (35%), 1500 word field-based writings (3 x 500 words @ 10% each = 30%), 2000 word researched feature and 500-word critique (35%)</p>

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	
14	Jul 13	Introduction to unit and feature writing.  Readings: Joan Didion, 'Slouching Towards Bethlehem'; Janet Malcolm, 'The Journalist and the Murderer'	Unit Reader readings will be discussed and analysed each week in seminars. You must also read and analyse at least one piece of journalism of your choice each week and be prepared to discuss in seminars.
15	Jul 21	Truth and New Journalism  Reading: Michael Shapiro, 'The Curse of Tom Wolfe'	Begin work on essay.
16	Jul 27	Field trip 1: Courts  Reading: Barry Siegel, 'The Vanishing'	Meet Miranda there (time and place tba).
17	Aug 3	Workshopping field writing  Reading: Clive James, 'The Continuing Insult to the Language'	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Friday Aug 7.  Drafts should be formatted for A4 paper and double spaced.
18	Aug 10	Field trip 2: tba  Reading: Margaret Simons, Fit to Print; Annabel Crabb, 'Stop at nothing: The Life and Adventures of Malcolm Turnbull'	Meet Miranda there (time and place tba).

19	Aug 17	Workshop field writing Reading: Julie Duncan, 'Punctuation of Quotes' Feature pitches. See Assignment 3.	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Friday Aug 14 Assignment 1 due Friday Aug 21.
20	Aug 24	Field trip 3: On 'place' Reading: Kerouac, 'The Dharma Bums'; Reading: Ehrlich, 'The Endless Hunt'	Meet Miranda there (time and place TBA)
<b>Mid-semester break: 31 Aug – 6 Sep 2009</b>			
21	Sep 7	Workshop field writing	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Friday Sept 4 Assignment 2 due Sept 11
22	Sep 14	Topic: feature writing Reading: Len Granato, 'Quotations'	
23	Sep 21	Topic: Interviewing Reading: Lynn Barber, 'The Art of the Interview'; Editing Reading: Margaret Simons, 'The Future of General Opinion'; Lynette Sheridan Burns, 'Journalism as Decision Making'	

24	Sep 28	Topic: Opinion and reviews Reading: Anthony Lane, 'The Maria Problem' Begin workshopping feature stories	
25	Oct 5	Workshopping feature stories	
26	Oct 12	Unit wrap-up	Assignment 3 due Oct 23
<b>Study week: 19 – 23 Oct 2009</b>			
<b>Exam period: 24 Oct – 10 Nov 2009</b>			

## ASSESSMENT

Task	Due	Percentage
Assignment 1 Essay question: "Never let the facts get in the way of a good story." Discuss the concept of truth in relation to contemporary literary journalism.	Friday, August 21	35%
Assignment 2 - Field-based writing	Friday, Sept 11	30%
Assignment 3 – Major feature story and critique	Friday, Oct 23	35%

Assessment task 1	
<b>Task description</b>	This essay should be written in an accessible style, publishable in a non-scholarly magazine such as <i>The Monthly</i> or <i>Vanity Fair</i> . Referencing should be embedded within the text in a conversational, journalistic style (but also include a Harvard reference list at the end for assessment purposes).
<b>Task length</b>	2500 words
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This assignment links to learning outcomes 1, 2 and 4.
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of introduction</li> <li>• Relevance and coherence of argument</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of conclusion</li> <li>• Scope of research and referencing</li> <li>• Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and style.</li> </ul>
<b>Submission instructions</b>	A4 and double spaced

<b>Assessment task 2</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	<p>You are required to produce 500 words of narrative writing based on each field trip. These pieces of writing should deploy a range of narrative techniques, such as the use of quotes and/or dialogue, and description and telling detail. They should tell a story. They do not need to be complete stories; they may function as part of a larger feature. They may also focus on an event, a person, an anecdote or a setting or interweave all these.</p> <p>You may provide your impressions, but you should also include facts that you have independently researched for background from elsewhere, such as previously published material. Each piece must be workshopped with the group one week after the field trip. You will need to email the draft of your piece to Miranda on the Friday before the workshopping seminar for distribution via email to other members of the group. Please make the effort to print out and comment on</p>

	each other's work. You should then redraft your writing on the basis of feedback.
<b>Task length</b>	3 x 500 words
<b>Links to learning outcomes</b>	This assignment links to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of description</li> <li>• Use of anecdotes</li> <li>• Style and tone</li> <li>• Research, including interviews</li> <li>• Accuracy</li> <li>• Structure</li> <li>• Grammar and punctuation</li> <li>• Use of speech</li> <li>• Presence of news ingredients</li> <li>• Workshopping and redrafting</li> <li>• Understanding of the genre</li> <li>• Adherence to JMC Style Guide</li> </ul>
<b>Submission instructions</b>	A4 and double spaced

<b>Assessment task 3</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Write a feature on a subject of your choice. It can be a profile or a broader feature, but should not be an essay or opinion piece. You must pitch and discuss your story idea with

Miranda in Week 19. When pitching, treat the workshop group as the publication's editors.

You should:

- Identify the publication and say why it is suitable
- Succinctly say what your story is about
- Describe a possible treatment (i.e. style, length, tone)
- Suggest possible intro, headline and images to accompany the story
- Be prepared to defend your thinking.

The story should include at least four to six interviews (for a profile, you will

need to find interviewees willing to discuss your main subject) and substantial

other research. All interviewees will be required to sign an interview consent

form (available online or on the JMC noticeboard).

You are encouraged to be adventurous with this piece of writing but you should still privilege journalistic research and facts.

You will be allocated a time for workshopping a draft of your profile in weeks 24 and 25. You will need to email the draft of your feature to Miranda on the Friday before you are due to workshop, for distribution via email to other members of the group.

The critique should include reflections on both the story content and its broader context

	<p>within the genre of feature writing and other forms of narrative non-fiction, and is to be handed in with your assignment. Your reflexive critique should be properly referenced according to Harvard style.</p> <p>Your critique should be in academic style and properly referenced. It should discuss how and why your feature developed as it did, and contextualise your work in broader contexts, which may be drawn from your readings of other features and/or guides to feature writing (see Recommended Texts).</p>
<p><b>Task length</b></p>	<p>Feature: 2000 words</p> <p>Critique: 500 words</p>
<p><b>Links to learning outcomes</b></p>	<p>This assignment links to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4</p>
<p><b>Assessment criteria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure, including blocks and justifier</li> <li>• Grammar and punctuation</li> <li>• Intro and ending</li> <li>• Use of speech</li> <li>• Use of description</li> <li>• Use of anecdotes</li> <li>• Style and tone</li> <li>• Research, including background and interviews</li> <li>• Presence of news ingredients</li> <li>• Workshopping and redrafting</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding of the genre</li><li>• Adherence to JMC Style Guide</li></ul>
<b>Submission instructions</b>	A4 and double spaced. You must attach completed interview consent forms, one for each interviewee.

## 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>