



***School of English, Journalism
and European Languages***

Faculty of Arts

**HEJ 203
Television Journalism**

Semester 2, 2010

Unit Outline

Mr John Martinkus

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

Contact details

Unit coordinator/lecturer

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Unit description

This unit introduces students to the theory and practice of news production and on-camera news reporting. Students will learn television news scripting, camera presentation and interviewing techniques. Students will also learn basic technical skills including camera work, editing, sound and voicing of news reports. Students will also be taught to identify and practise the different genres of television news reporting from breaking news stories to compiling news packages and current affairs reports.

Intended learning outcomes

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

1. Plan, script, shoot and edit a television news story for a specific news program.
2. Conduct research on and critically discuss the relationship between theory and the practices of news production.
3. Analyse television news and current affairs stories
4. Discuss trends in the global, national and local television news industries

Generic graduate attributes

The University has defined a set of generic graduate attributes (GGAs) that can be expected of all graduates (see <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/policies/index.htm>). By undertaking this unit you should make progress in attaining the following attributes:

Knowledge: Provide knowledge of the history structure and different genres of television journalism in Australia and internationally

Communication skills: Introducing students to television interviewing, scripting and filming techniques.

Problem-solving skills: Encouraging, teamwork, organisational and time management skills in the course of the practical assignments.

A Global perspective on the production styles, formats and genres of television journalism will be fostered through exposure to and analysis of a wide variety of material.

Social responsibility will be addressed through an examination of the ethics, motivations and functions of journalistic accountability inherent in television news.

Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

The University of Tasmania regularly requests feedback from students through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning (SETL) process. Changes to units stemming from student responses to texts and teaching strategies are regularly implemented in the School of English, Journalism and European Languages.

Prior knowledge &/or skills

Prerequisites: HEJ101 and HEJ102.

Learning expectations and teaching strategies/approaches

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 resources required

Requisite texts

The text for this unit is:

Morgan, Vivien 2008, *Practising Videojournalism* Routledge, New York.

Recommended reading

The following texts are available on reserve in the library (please note: a detailed week by week reading list will be provided on Mylo)

Alysen, Barbara 2006, *The Electronic Reporter: Broadcast Journalism in Australia*, 2nd edition UNSW Press, South Melbourne.

Grundy, Bruce 2007, *So you want to be a journalist?* Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne.

Gail Phillips and Mia Lindgren, 2006, *Australian Broadcast Journalism* 2nd Ed Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

White Ted, 2002, *Broadcast News*, Butterworth Heinemann, Melbourne.

E- (electronic) resources

MyLO

Reading material related to the workshops and articles of interest will be updated on Mylo. Students are expected to check at least once a week for new links and material.

To access MyLO from your own computer you will need the appropriate software, and hardware to run that software. Please see UConnect at <http://uconnect.utas.edu.au/> for information about computer software you will need.

Note: Older computers may not have the hardware to run some of the required software applications. Contact your local IT support person or the Service Desk on 1818 if you experience difficulties.

Other

Equipment & materials

Special Note

During the semester students will have the opportunity to learn practical skills in camera operation and editing. Three camera kits will be available for loan to students (details provided in class). The camera kits will not be available on Monday afternoons and Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings when workshops are in session as they will be needed. If you have your own camera equipment you are encouraged to use that but please speak to the convenor of the unit to ensure compatibility with UTAS equipment before purchasing camera. Students with their own cameras will need to ensure their cameras have a firewire port to connect to the computers in the JMC lab. Mini DV tapes will not be provided and students are expected to purchase their own.

Computer hardware & software

Students will be taught to edit on the Mac based software imovie and expected to submit their final practical assignment in this format. All computers in the media lab have this software and they will be available for students use every Thursday and Friday throughout the semester. (please note editing is a time consuming process and students are encouraged to begin their projects early to ensure they have enough time to edit their work effectively)

Details of teaching arrangements

Lectures/Intensive sessions

A timetable for this unit can be found here:

http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/coursesenrolment/timetable/GridLayout.asp?Unit_code=HEJ203&EventType=&year=2010

Workshops/seminars

Workshop preference lists will be handed out in the first lecture.

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

Specific attendance/performance requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes and workshops. Students who fail to attend classes may be disadvantaged and instruction provided in workshops may not be repeated.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

| Assessment task | Task length | Date due | Percent weighting | Links to Intended Learning Outcomes |
|------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| Assessment Task 1: | 1500 word essay | Week 17, i.e. Friday 6 August, 4pm | 30% | 4 |
| Assessment Task 2: | 1500 word analysis and pitch | Week 20, i.e. Friday 27 August, 4pm | 30% | 3 |
| Assessment Task 3: | Part 1: 5 minute television journalism project Part 2: Production diary and exegesis 1000 words | Part 1: Week 25, i.e. Friday October 8, 4pm Part 2: Diary and exegesis due Week 26, i.e. Friday October 15 4pm | 40% | 1,2 & 3 |

Assessment details

Assessment task 1

30%

Task description

1 x 1500 word essay 30%

Question: What are the recent major changes in the way television news is produced and distributed and what does this mean for the future of television journalism?

You will be provided with a suggested reading list. Individual research is encouraged into the recent analyses of trends in the different formats and their benefits and drawbacks. All final assignments should be on A4 paper and double-spaced and properly referenced. You are encouraged to research these topics in news archives, academic journal articles and textbooks.

Assessment criteria

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- Ability to identify and analyse the different types of television journalism.
- Knowledge of the basic production procedures involved making the different formats of television journalism.
- Evidence of understanding and familiarity with the required reading material.
- Quality of presentation including grammar, spelling and referencing.
- Evidence of research.

Date due

Week 17, i.e. Friday 6 August, 4pm

Assessment task 2

30%

Task description

1 x 1500 word analysis 30%, including 300 word pitch

Conduct a content and context analysis of three news or current affairs programs and pitch your proposed television story to one of those programs.

You will be asked to select three news or current affairs programs and write a 1500 word comparative analysis of those programs that will focus on their selection of content, their context and how the programs are produced. As part of the same piece of writing you will be required to then propose your own television report for inclusion in one of those programs. Final assignments should be on A4 paper and double spaced and properly referenced.

Assessment criteria

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- Ability to identify the different formats of television journalism
- Understanding of the processes of production of the different formats
- Evidence of an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the different formats
- Application of the above knowledge to the pitch
- Feasibility of the proposed story and appropriateness of the selected program for proposed story
- Adherence to JMC style guide for the pitch
- Presentation

Date due

Week 17, i.e. Friday 6 August, 4pm

Assesment task 3

40%

Task description

1 x two to five minute television journalism piece and 1 x 1000 word diary and exegesis on your involvement in the production and critique of the report itself 40%

Part 1: 1 x two to five minute television journalism piece

The report can be produced either individually or in teams of no more than four. If the student wishes to work on the project individually in the manner of a sole operating video journalist, he or she will have to use their own equipment and they will be assessed individually. If the students wish to work in a group in the manner of a traditional television news crew the project will be assessed as a group. Cameras will be provided for group reports only.

Part 2:

Production Diary (1/2 – 1 page)

Your production diary should be a record of your contribution to the making of the piece. The diary will list what role you undertook in the making of the piece (eg; camera operator, reporter, script writer) and list what you contributed to the process.

And

1 x 1000 word exegesis on your involvement in the production and critique of the report itself

You are required to write a 1000-word exegesis to accompany your story. An exegesis is a critical explanation or interpretation of your 'creative' component - in this case, your journalism. It should elaborate upon and contextualise your work, providing the opportunity for you to reflect upon your practice and that of other journalists. However, it is important to remember that this is a scholarly piece of work, and not a simple 'diary' or anecdotal retelling of how your journalism was produced. In some cases, it will only obliquely refer to your own journalism, focusing instead on a related scholarly question or problem in journalism studies. (This should not, however, replicate material from your essays.) Please discuss the content and relationship between your creative and critical components with the unit coordinator if are unsure. You should draw on the readings provided to you throughout semester, as well as other relevant literature on journalism practice and research

Assessment criteria

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

Journalism piece:

- Ability to identify and research newsworthy subject matter
- Coherence and quality of script and voice over delivery
- Quality of filming and adherence to basic filming principles
- Interview skills
- Evidence of understanding the basics of sequence construction and editing
- Application of basic principles of television journalism as covered in the

lectures and pracs throughout the semester

Diary and exegesis

- Evidence of an understanding on journalistic practice and the broader contexts for your journalistic work
- Ability to structure and write at an appropriate level

Date Due

Part 1: Week 25, i.e. Friday October 8, 4pm

Part 2: Diary and exegesis due Week 26, i.e. Friday October 15, 4pm

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 and 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.

Assignment cover sheets can be downloaded from
http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm

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.

Penalties

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.

Requests for extensions

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.

How your final result is determined

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%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- 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.

Review of results and appeals

Please refer to the **Student Resources** page on the School's website for information that addresses how to apply for a review of assessment, make an appeal or seek clarification regarding any assessment practices in this unit:

http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/student_resources/student_resources.htm

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 English, French and German disciplines 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>

For general information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles:

<http://utas.libguides.com/referencing>

Please read the following statements on academic misconduct and plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, allowing another student to copy work for an assignment or an examination and any other conduct by which a student:

- a) seeks to gain, for themselves or for any other person, any academic advantage or advancement to which they or that other person are not entitled; or
- b) improperly disadvantages any other student.

Students engaging in any form of academic misconduct may be dealt with under the Ordinance of Student Discipline, and this can include imposition of penalties that range from a deduction/cancellation of marks to exclusion from a unit 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/>

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.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.

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.

Further information and assistance

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 are advised to raise these with your lecturer in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including Teaching & Learning, Student Services, 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/>

You are also welcome to contact the School of English, Journalism and European Languages with any enquiries:

Room 557, Humanities Building
Sandy Bay campus, Hobart

Tel: (03) 6226 2347
Fax: (03) 6226 7631
Email: SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel>

Unit schedule

| Week | Date beginning | Topic | Workshops |
|------|----------------|---|---|
| 14 | 12 July | Introduction to the course: What you will learn. Examples of good television journalism. How the course is laid out. What skills you will be expected to learn and what you can do with them. | No workshop |
| 15 | 19 July | What are you watching? News, Current Affairs and Breaking news. Analysing different formats and how they are made. | Comparative analysis of TV news clips. |
| 16 | 26 July | The Interview. The key to television journalism. Who to interview and why. How to set up. Preparing questions. Different interview styles. | Setting up and filming interviews in groups including, cutaways, noddies, two shots and reverse shots |
| 17 | 2 August | Filming the story. The practicalities of filming a story. Storyboards, synopsis, sequences, talent, and locations. | Discussing rough synopsis followed by filming sequences and joining sequences and choosing locations.. |
| 18 | 9 August | Scripting and editing. The importance of writing to pictures. Laying out a script. Organising shot sequences. Isolating grabs and upsots and natural sound and writing them in to the script. | Begin script writing and editing with prepared materials – transcripts, four simple pieces of vision and grabs on imovie. |
| 19 | 16 August | Pitching story ideas. What is a story. Where do you envision this story running. Some examples of good and bad ideas. How to sell a story. | Begin to workshop pitches in groups and have mock presentations. Then set parameters for real pitches for television project. |
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|-----------|--------------|--|--|
| 20 | 23 August | | Workshop and present story pitches. |
| 21 | 6 September | | Begin process of filming – shotlists, selecting talent, locations, filming techniques. |
| 22 | 13 September | | Shooting/editing reports |
| 23 | 20 September | | Shooting/editing reports |
| 24 | 27 September | | Shooting/editing reports |
| 25 | 4 October | | Final editing and playing out reports |
| 26 | 11 October | Screening all reports from all groups. | |