



*School of English, Journalism
and European Languages*

Faculty of Arts

HEJ414
**Reading in Journalism, Media and
Communications**

Semester 2, 2010

Unit Outline

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Contact details

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Unit description

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 throughout the remainder of the semester. Approval of the Head of School is required to enrol in this unit.

Intended learning outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate skills in writing and analysis appropriate for Honours level
2. Critically reflect on current theory and practices within journalism, media and communications studies
3. Critically evaluate key issues in journalism, media and communications research and practice.

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: *through focused reading, application and evaluation of key concepts and debates in journalism, media and communications*

Communication skills: *through participation in supervision meetings and the submission of written assessment tasks*

Problem-solving skills: *through assessment work focused on argument, analysis and application of theoretical concepts*

Global perspective: *through the analysis of journalism, media and communications scholarship, texts and practices from a range of contexts*

Social responsibility: *through the understanding and critique of ethical practice in journalism, media and communications*

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.

Teaching and learning strategies

This unit is principally taught via one-on-one supervision meetings. The precise teaching and learning strategies will vary depending on the supervisor and the nature of the assessment work undertaken. As a result, students should discuss with their supervisor the teaching and learning strategies employed in this unit.

Learning resources required

Requisite texts

These will be provided by the supervisor, if required.

MyLO

This unit does not require access to MyLO.

Equipment & materials

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.

Details of teaching arrangements

This unit is taught principally through one-on-one supervision meetings. Details of this will be provided early in the semester.

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 required supervision meetings. Students who fail to maintain regular contact with their supervisor may be disadvantaged in this unit.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

Assessment task	Date due	Percent weighting	Links to Intended Learning Outcomes
8500 word assignment/s, as agreed with supervisor	Individual deadlines are to be determined by the supervisor	100%	1, 2, 3

Assessment details

Assessment task

Task description

8500 word assignment/s, as agreed with supervisor

Assessment criteria

Please refer to the criteria sheet for these task/s which will be provided by your supervisor

Date due

Deadline/s as agreed with supervisor

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 supervision meetings unless otherwise advised.

Penalties

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.

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

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:

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