



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

**Faculty of Arts**

**HEJ606  
Advanced Journalism**

**Semester 2, 2010**

**Unit Outline**

**Miranda Harman**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B

# Contact details

## Unit coordinator/lecturer

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## Unit description

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.

## Intended learning outcomes

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

1. Identify and critically analyse narrative techniques used in different genres of journalism.
2. Communicate in journalistic writing at a publishable level.
3. Conduct research by journalistic interviews.
4. Constructively critique the research and writing of fellow students.

## 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: by studying the work of leading journalists*

*Communication skills: by writing and workshoping journalism*

*Problem-solving skills: by discussing ideas, workshoping writing and reflecting on the work of experts in the field*

*Global perspective: by reading internationally renowned writers and following current news issues*

*Social responsibility: by understanding the importance of ethical journalism and the role of media law*

## **Details of teaching arrangements**

### ***Workshops/seminars***

Weekly: Wednesday 11am – 1pm

### ***Field trips***

See unit schedule

## ***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](http://www.admin.utas.edu.au/hr/ohs/pol_proc/ohs.pdf)

## **Specific attendance/performance requirements**

Journalistic interviewing is required for this unit. This will involve approaching interview subjects with the purpose of carrying out on-the-record conversations. Assignments requiring interviews must have a signed interview consent form attached when submitted (available at [www.utas.edu.au/journalism](http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism) under Student Resources).

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who fail to attend classes may be disadvantaged.

## **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.

## **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***

2010 Unit Reader

Note: Unit readers are available for purchase from UniPrint.

### ***Recommended reading***

(on Reserve in the Morris Miller Library)

*The Art of Fact : A Historical Anthology of Literary Journalism*, 1998  
Kevin Kerrane and Ben Yagoda (eds), Simon & Schuster, New York

*Literary Journalism: A Reader*, Chance, Jean and McKeen, William (eds), 2001,  
Wadsworth Thomson Learning, Australia

Sims, Norman, 1984, *The Literary Journalists*, Ballantine Books

Wolfe, Tom, 1973, *The New Journalism*, Picador, London

The Faber Book of Reportage, Carey, John (ed), 1987,

Faber and Faber, London

Dunlevy, Maurice, 1988, Feature Writing, Deakin University, Geelong

Granato, Len, 1999, Newspaper Feature Writing, Deakin University, Geelong.

The Journalist's Craft: A Guide to Writing Better Stories, Jackson, Dennis, and  
Sweeney, John (eds),

2002, Allworth Press, New York

Kaplan, Bruce, 2003, Editing Made Easy, Penguin Books, Camberwell.

Ricketson, Matthew, 2004, Writing Feature Stories, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest

Sedorkin, Gail, and McGregor, Judy, 2002, Interviewing: A Guide for Journalists  
and Writers. Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest

## ***Electronic resources***

### **MyLO**

You can access the HEJ606 website through the ***Learning Online*** login page: **<http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>** This page provides links to documents, lecture presentations and audio recordings that will be useful for you. It will be updated throughout the semester, so visit regularly.

Contact the Service Desk if you have problems with MyLo: Website:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk> Telephone: 6226 1818; 1300 304 903 (local call from within TAS; mobiles excepted)

Email: [servicedesk@utas.edu.au](mailto:servicedesk@utas.edu.au)

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.

## Assessment

### *Assessment schedule*

<b>Assessment task</b>	<b>Task length</b>	<b>Date due</b>	<b>Percent weighting</b>	<b>Links to Intended Learning Outcomes</b>
<p>Assessment Task 1: Journalistic Essay</p> <p>Topic:</p> <p>Good journalism involves respecting evidence, including evidence that may contradict the writer's initial point of view. Use examples to discuss this notion in relation to literary journalism.</p>	2500 words	Friday Aug 20	35%	1 and 2
<p><b>Assessment Task 2:</b> <b>Field-based writing</b></p>	3 x 500 words	Friday Sep 17	30%	1, 2 and 3
<p><b>Assessment Task 3:</b> <b>Major feature story and exegesis</b></p>	Feature: 2000 words  Exegesis: 500 words	Friday Oct 15	35%	1, 2 and 3

## ***Assessment details***

### **Assessment task 1**

Task description: Journalistic Essay

This essay should be written in an accessible style, publishable in a non-scholarly magazine such as *The Monthly* or *Vanity Fair*. 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).

Assessment criteria:

A criteria sheet will be provided.

Date due:

Friday Aug 20

### **Assessment task 2**

Task description:

You are required to produce 500 words of narrative writing based on each field trip. These pieces of writing should deploy journalistic techniques such as the use of quotes, description and telling detail. They should tell a story using facts and, if possible, relevant quotes. The story may focus on an event, a person, an anecdote or a setting or interweave all these. You can add depth to your pieces by independently researching relevant background material, such as previously published stories. 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 before the workshopping seminar for distribution via email to other members of the group. Please make the effort to print out and comment on each other's work. You should then redraft your writing on the basis of feedback.

Assessment criteria

A criteria sheet will be provided.

Date due:

Friday Sep 17

### Assessment task 3

Task description:

Write a feature on a subject of your choice. It can be a profile or a broader feature, but not 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 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 at [www.utas.edu.au/journalism](http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism)).

You are encouraged to be adventurous with this piece of writing but you must still base it on journalistic research and facts. You will be allocated a time for workshoping a draft of your story in weeks 24 and 25. You will need to email the draft to Miranda on the Monday before you are due to workshop, for distribution via email to other members of the group.

The exegesis is to be written in academic style and should include reflections on both the story content and its broader context within the genre of feature writing and other forms of narrative non-fiction, and is to be handed in with your assignment. It should be properly referenced in the style of the Harvard citation guide posted on MyLo and available at [www.utas.edu.au/journalism](http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism) (under Student Resources).

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).

Assessment criteria

A criteria sheet will be provided.

Date due:

Friday Oct 15

## 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](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](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](mailto:SEJEL.admin@utas.edu.au)  
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel>

## Unit schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings / Resources	Further information
14	14 July	Introduction to unit and feature writing.	Joan Didion, 'Slouching Towards Bethlehem'; Janet Malcolm, 'The Journalist and the Murderer'	
15	21 July	What is Literary Journalism?	Extract from Tom Wolfe, <i>The New Journalism</i>	
16	28 July	Field trip 1: tba	Barry Siegel, 'The Vanishing'	Meet Miranda there (time and place tba).
17	4 August	Field writing workshop 1	TBA	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Monday Aug 9. Drafts should be formatted for A4 paper and double spaced.
18	11 August	Field trip 2: tba	Peter Lalor, "Tell the suburbs they're dreaming"	Meet Miranda there (time and place tba).
19	18 August	Field writing workshop 2	TBA	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Monday Aug 23  Assignment 1 due Friday Aug 20.
20	25 August	Field trip 3: tba	Extract from Don Watson, <i>Recollections of a Bleeding Heart</i>	Meet Miranda there (time and place TBA)
<b>Mid semester break: August 30 Sep 5</b>				

<b>21</b>	8 September	Field writing workshop 3	Reading: Lynn Barber, 'The Art of the Interview'	Email field writing drafts to Miranda by Monday Sept 13
<b>22</b>	15 September	Feature writing	Robert Fisk, "Hack blasts local rags"	Assignment 2 due Friday Sept 17
<b>23</b>	22 September	Interviewing Writing an exegesis	Annabel Crabb, 'Stop at nothing: The Life and Adventures of Malcolm Turnbull'	
<b>24</b>	29 September	Workshopping feature stories	TBA	
<b>25</b>	6 October	Workshopping feature stories	TBA	
<b>26</b>	13 October	Unit wrap-up		Assignment 3 due Oct 15