



English, Journalism and European Languages

Faculty of Arts

HEJ 701

Major Research Project (Full-Time)

Semester 2, 2010

Unit Outline

CRICOS Provider Code: [00586B](#)

Contact details

Unit coordinator/lecturer

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Unit description

In this unit students undertake substantial research on an approved subject leading to a major journalistic project and exegesis.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Research a topic and produce a substantial journalistic work
2. Situate your journalistic work in relation to a media industry or relevant literature
3. Present your ideas in a written academic context

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: will be developed through the use of a range of academic and media skills. Knowledge will be assessed through the production of a journalistic product and exegesis.

Communication skills: will be developed through journalistic practice. Communications skills will be assessed through journalistic practice and the submission of written work.

Problem-solving skills: will be developed through engagement in practical tasks that require the sourcing, evaluation and incorporation of information into a major work.

A global perspective on the media industry will be fostered through a consideration of the forces influencing journalistic practice.

Learning resources

Individual reading lists to be provided by supervisor

Details of teaching arrangements

Students will work independently with consultation with supervisors.

Learning expectations and strategies

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.

Specific attendance/performance requirements

Interview consent forms

Your research in this unit will require you to conduct interviews with a wide range of people. Gaining the informed consent of interviewees is central to ethical documentary production.

In this unit you will be required to submit signed interview consent forms whenever you conduct an interview. Work will not be accepted without the relevant consent forms.

Interview consent forms can be downloaded from the school website:
<http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/arts/journalism/index.asp>

Media Lab

You will be given access to the media lab in order to complete your practical work in this unit. The media lab is a teaching space so you should be aware that you will be unable to work in the media lab while a class is on.

To gain access to the media lab you will need to purchase a proxy card from the student contact centre at the union building.

You will be able to access the media lab from 8am – 6pm weekdays.

Assessment

Assessment schedule

Assessment task	Date due	Percent weighting	Links to Learning Outcomes
Assessment Task 1: Journalistic product and exegesis	Friday 8th October	100%	1, 2, 3

Assessment details

Assessment task

100%

Task description

A piece or pieces of researched journalism (either print, video, radio or online). This should be a long feature-style piece of journalism or a closely related series of features, based upon strong journalistic principles and capable of being published in an acknowledged forum. The student should make a statement about the forum within which the piece could be published (whether or not it is actually published eventually). This work should be about **7 500** words long.

It must be accompanied by a **5 000 word exegesis** that shows scholarship around the topic of your work. You must read the literature pertinent to your topic and show how your piece of journalism fits within the context you have chosen.

Task length

7 500 word journalistic product

5 000 word exegesis

Links to intended learning outcomes

1,2,3

Assessment criteria

1. Evidence of efficient planning and management of a research project, incorporating original work within clearly defined constraints of time, resources and prospective identified publication/broadcast forum and audience

2. Evidence of sound research of both the topic chosen and the media industry/audience for the journalistic product
3. Effective presentation of the journalistic product – including appropriate writing style, scripting and use of interview material
4. Scholarly written expression and referencing – including grammar, spelling and correct use of Harvard referencing system.

Date due

Friday 8th October

How your final result is determined

All results in all units offered in the Faculty of Arts are reviewed by Heads of Schools in consultation with academic staff. Where there are significant variations from the norms that have been established over the past five years, results may be moderated in order to comply with the Faculty's guidelines. Where significant variations occur, these are reported for consideration and possible review to the Faculty of Arts Committee of Assessors.

For further information on the moderation guidelines, please refer to the Faculty of Arts *Guide for the Teaching and Assessment of Undergraduate Units* available on the Faculty of Arts Website (<http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/students/>).

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

Submission of assignments

All written assignments are to be submitted in hard copy (not by email) to the school office before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to submit a **signed assignment cover sheet** with every assignment. The coversheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is a clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School Website.

Requests for extensions

The due date for the major project in the JMC Masters by coursework is viewed as the final date for the acceptance of work.

However, if there are extenuating circumstances speak to your supervisor. Documentation such as a medical certificate or similar will be required. To be considered all requests for extensions should be made by email the course co-ordinator, BEFORE the due date of the assignment.

Penalties

Late assignments will not be accepted. A failure will be recorded.

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 appropriate referencing style for this unit is the Harvard system. A guide to using the Harvard referencing system can be found on the School's website

<http://fcms.its.utas.edu.au/arts/journalism/index.asp>.

For information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles:

<http://www.utas.edu.au/library/assist/gpoa/gpoa.html>

Please read the following statement 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.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>

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/>