



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ203 Television Journalism

Semester 1, 2009

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

Convenor:	John Martinkus Room: Hum 573 Phone: 6226 2938 Email: John.Martinkus@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Friday 10am – 1pm
Unit Description:	This unit introduces students to both 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.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	To familiarise students with the practical requirements of television journalism; To provide students with a basic knowledge of the history structure and different genres of television journalism in Australia and internationally; To introduce students to television interviewing, scripting and filming techniques; To acquaint students with the types of basic technical skills needed to be a television journalist in a convergent media world; and To encourage students to think critically about television journalism and its social/cultural context.
Learning Outcomes:	1. To build knowledge and a practical understanding of the basics of filming and editing a piece of television journalism. 2. Ability to identify and analyse the different types of television journalism and knowledge of the basic production techniques involved in making the different formats of television journalism

	<p>3. Ability to identify and analyse newsworthy material</p> <p>4. Gain knowledge of and be exposed to global, national and local television journalism.</p> <p>5. Enhance problem solving and teamwork skills.</p>
Required Texts:	Gail Phillips and Mia Lindgren, 2006 <i>Australian Broadcast Journalism 2nd</i> Ed. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.
Recommended Texts:	<p>The following texts are available on reserve in the library</p> <p>Morgan, Vivien 2008, <i>Practising Videojournalism</i> Routledge, New York.</p> <p>Alysen, Barabara 2006, <i>The Electronic Reporter: Broadcast Journalism in Australia</i>, 2nd edition UNSW Press, South Melbourne.</p> <p>Grundy, Bruce 2007, <i>So you want to be a journalist?</i> Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne.</p> <p>Gail Phillips and Mia Lindgren, 2006, <i>Australian Broadcast Journalism 2nd</i> Ed Oxford University Press, Melbourne.</p> <p>White, Ted 2002, <i>Broadcast News</i>, Butterworth Heinemann, Melbourne.</p>
When Taught:	<p>Lecture Mon 10:00 am-10:50am SB.SocSci209</p> <p>Practical Mon 11:00 am – 12:50pm, SB.Arts201.Lab Tues 9:00 am -10:50 am, SB. Arts201.Lab Tues 11:00 am – 12:50 pm, SB Arts201.Lab Tues 2:10 pm – 4:00 pm, SB Arts201.Lab</p>
Assessment:	1 x 1500 word essay, 30%; 1 x 1500 analysis and pitch, 30%; 1 x two to five minute television journalism piece, diary and 1 x 1000 word exegesis on your involvement in the production and critique of the report itself, 40%

Special Note

During the semester students will have the opportunity to learn practical skills in camera operation and editing. One camera kit will be available for loan to students (details provided in class). The camera kit will not be available on Mondays or Tuesdays when pracs are in session as it will be needed. If you have your own camera equipment you are encouraged to use that but please speak to the convenor of the course 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 Media Lab. Mini DV tapes will not be provided and students are expected to purchase their own.

LECTURE/SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Practical
Week 1 Mon Feb 23	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 tutorial
Week 2 Mon March 2	What are you watching? News, Current Affairs and Breaking news. Analysing different formats and how they are made.	Break up into groups. Comparative analysis of TV news clips.
Week 3	n.b. Monday 9 March – Public Holiday	Present and discuss results of comparative analysis.
Week 4 Mon March 16	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.
Week 5 Mon March 23	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.
Week 6 Mon March 30	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.
Week 7 Mon April 6	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.
	Easter Break – 9-15 April	
Week 8 Mon April 20	No Lecture	Begin process of filming – shotlists, selecting talent, locations, filming techniques.
Week 9 Mon April 27	No Lecture	Shooting/editing reports
Week 10 Mon May 4	No Lecture	Shooting/editing reports
Week 11 Mon 11 May	No Lecture	Shooting/editing reports
Week 12 Mon 18 May	No Lecture	Final editing and playing out reports
Week 13 Mon 25 May	Screening all reports from all groups. Time and venue to be confirmed.	Critique reports

ASSESSMENT

Assessment comprises 3000 words of writing assignments and production of one two to five minute television news story, diary and 1000 word exegesis.

Assignment One (due Week 5, i.e. Friday 27 March, 4pm)

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 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.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 2-4

Assignment Two (due Week 8, i.e. Friday 24 April, 4pm)

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 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

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 2-4

Assignment Three (Part 1: television journalism piece due Week 12, i.e. Friday 22 May, 4pm, Part 2: Diary and exegesis due study period i.e. Friday 5 June, 4pm)

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 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

Note: Given the large number of students enrolled in this unit there may be high demand for camera equipment immediately prior to the due date for the main assignment. Inability to access a camera does not constitute grounds for an extension of time. If you are relying on a school camera you should ensure you have planned sufficiently in advance to ensure you are ready to submit your work on time.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1-5

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a 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 must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted 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.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

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 one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

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.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. 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.

Assignment Presentation

The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. Please see <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/> for a brief introduction. For journalistic writing, refer to the JMC Style Guide, also available at <http://www.utas.edu.au/journalism/>.

For journalistic assignments, you must not use material gathered for a story, including interviews, for assessment in more than one unit. If in doubt, please discuss with your unit coordinator.

Equipment

Please note that this unit may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment and that while the school will provide access to equipment 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. We encourage students, where possible, to purchase their own recording devices. Teaching staff will advise on suitable equipment.

Marking Scale

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%

All marks are subject to moderation.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)