



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HEJ406
Reading in Media and Communications
Semester 2, 2008
www.utas.edu.au/journalism/

Convenor:	Dr Jason Bainbridge Room: SocSci 579 Phone: 6226 7146 Email: Jason.Bainbridge@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Monday 12pm-3pm
Unit Description:	This unit offers students the opportunity to examine in-depth a topic in media and communications. It will draw on the expertise of various staff on a periodic basis. Potential topics may include imaging news, science communication, gender and the news, media history, journalism and biography, and new media.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	The major aims of this unit are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To introduce students to self-directed research tasks at an Honour Level standard.• To encourage the development of students' researching and writing skills at Honours Level.• To provide students with an opportunity to undertake research in their chosen area.• To assist students to think critically about the social and cultural place of media and the production of media texts.
Learning Outcomes:	At the completion of this unit students will: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have been introduced to self-directed research tasks at an Honours Level.2. Have been encouraged to develop their researching and writing skills at Honours Level.3. Have been provided with an opportunity to undertake research in their chosen area.

	4. Be able to think critically about the social and cultural place of media and the production of media texts
Required Texts:	N/A
Recommended Texts:	N/A
When Taught:	Regular meetings between student and supervisor, to be determined in consultation with supervisor.
Assessment:	research essay(s) totalling 5000-words, or equivalent This will assess Learning Outcomes 1-4.

ASSESSMENT

HEJ406

Reading in Media and Communications

5,000 word research essay

Due Date: Monday 27 October 2008)

Self-directed research essay totalling 5,000-words

The topic for your essay should be selected in consultation with your supervisor.

Possible topics include:

- A particular theorist
- A particular media text or genre
- A particular historical or cultural context

The aim of this essay is to enable you to undertake further research and writing into an area that will assist you in the completion of your thesis.

This assessment will facilitate the acquisition of Learning Outcomes 1-4.

Equipment

We encourage you, where possible, to purchase your own recording devices. This will allow you to carry out media work in the field to supplement and support theoretical work.

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: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day. 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.

Honours Marking Scale

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.

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)