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MDIA2003

Advanced Media Writing

Semester One // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Peter White	prr.white@unsw.edu.au	Wednesdays 3.30-5.00 pm (please email to arrange an appointment)	Webster level 3, RM 311F	X52364

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Rose-Anne Manns	r.manns@unsw.edu.au	N/A	N/A	N/A
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School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes

and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information, see <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Media*

This course is concerned with the skills required to produce and critically analyse the longer, more in-depth forms of journalism known by such labels as “feature” and “documentary”. The course will focus on these longer forms as they operate in newspapers, magazines, radio and online, and how they vary according to subject matter – i.e. according to whether they are concerned with current affairs and social issues, or with arts and entertainment or lifestyle and leisure topics. The course will also provide students with an understanding of what is typically involved in the preparation of features and documentaries – e.g. how they are conceived, how they may require the cultivation of appropriate “contacts”, and the types of research and interviewing usually employed. In the process of developing these practical skills, students will also explore concepts and theoretical frameworks for critically analyzing how these texts work communicatively.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. produce in-depth journalistic texts across a range of different media contexts
2. support writing process through relevant research, ethical engagement and quality processes
3. demonstrate ability to successfully write across a range of genres and styles
4. relate writing to related process of text production, including placement within multimedia contexts

Teaching Strategies

The lecture time will be devoted to outlining and discussing the various stages of the news reporting and feature writing process and to a detailed exploration of the different types of feature article and their stylistic and text compositional properties. The tutorials will be devoted to exercises and discussion designed to develop the students’ practical skills in conceiving, researching and writing news and more extended feature articles, and in critically evaluating and deconstructing their own and other’s work.

This course uses face-to-face classroom teaching, with 1 x 90 minute lecture and 1 x 90 minute tutorial each week, including collaborative and individual work. Students prepare readings, discussion points and exercises in advance of each tutorial. For the most part, materials required for tutorial preparation and for assessment tasks will be made available via the course’s Moodle website.

Assessment

See course website for detailed information about the assignment tasks

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Production Project 1 - Personality Profile	25%	25/03/2018 11:00 PM	1,2,3,4
Production Project 2 - Issues/trend feature	50%	03/06/2018 11:00 PM	2,3,4
Tutorial Preparation Submissions	25%	Not Applicable	1,2,3,4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Production Project 1 - Personality Profile

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: various elements = 3000 words

Details: Collaborative production (2-3 students), of a "profile" feature article (including background research, recording interviews and the final writing-up). Word-length equivalent to more than 3000 words. Students will receive written comments, a grade, and feedback in class.

Additional details:

For this assignment you will be asked to create content suitable for today's digital publishing environments - i.e. you will be required to incorporate visual (still images or video) and audio elements, along with the verbal content. You will be required to incorporate these multiple elements in a appropriate webpage based format.

See course website for detailed instructions.

Submission notes: null

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Production Project 2 - Issues/trend feature

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: multiple elements; equivalent to 3500 words

Details: Collaboratively researched (2-3 students), individually written issues or trend feature. Word-length equivalent to more than 3000 words. This is the final assessment task. Students will receive

written comments and a grade.

Additional details:

For this assignment you will be asked to create content suitable for today's digital publishing environments - i.e. you will be required to incorporate visual (still images or video) and audio elements, along with the verbal content. You will be required to incorporate these multiple elements in an appropriate webpage based format.

See course website for details.

Submission notes: null

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Tutorial Preparation Submissions

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: multiple elements; equivalent to 3000 words

Details: Tasks, to be completed in advance of tutorial. Students must complete a minimum of EIGHT of these tutorial preparations (otherwise a mark of zero will be given for this component). Some tasks will be designated as compulsory. Students will receive written comments, a grade, and feedback in class.

Additional details:

See course website for details.

Submission notes: null

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen (14) days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one (21) days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- * Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- * Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- * Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose

- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

(<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>)

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 26 February - 4 March	Lecture	<p>1. In-depth digital journalism: conceiving, researching and producing publishable print-style, audio and video packages</p> <p>2. Your online portfolio</p> <p>(Also introduction to the new UNSW online digital journalism publication; meet the editor, Connie Levett)</p> <p>PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT TUTORIALS ALSO START THIS WEEK.</p>
	Tutorial	<p>PLEASE NOTE THAT TUTORIALS BEGIN THIS WEEK</p> <p>[The following schedule is only provisional - subject to change as the semester unfolds.... current as of February 22, 2018]</p> <p>During the Tutorial</p> <p>1. Introductions, overview of course content, assessment, tutorial preparations (a minimum of eight required), attendance, etc.</p> <p>2. Preparation for Production Project 1: Profile (print-style and podcast versions)</p> <p>[Will have been briefly previewed ion the lecture]</p> <p>Profile pairings (optimally working in pairs, only in threes when unavoidable; working individually also an option). Pairs brainstorm possible profile subjects:</p> <p>just some suggestions...</p> <p>[human-interest style] local identities/heros/eccentrics; people with interesting/bizarre jobs, pastimes or obsessions; people with interesting "triumphs over adversiity" or remarkable</p>

		<p>exploits/adventures/expeditions/abilities; people whose personal stories provide insights into significant social issues/trends/debates or historical events etc. (e.g. refugees, asylum seekers, members of the "stolen generation", war veterans, homeless people etc.); successful/unsuccessful entrepreneurs with interesting personal stories to tell, etc.</p> <p>[culture/arts-and-entertainment] struggling/up-and-coming/successful musos, artists, actors, film makers, authors, social-media "influencers", bloggers etc.</p> <p>[academia/research] academics involved in interesting lines of research; academics with high public profiles</p> <p>[current events] activists/campaigners, politicians (including especially local politicians); community/union leaders; people with first-hand experience of recently topical events or developments, etc.</p> <p>and so on...</p>
Week 2: 5 March - 11 March	Lecture	Getting to grips with in-depth profiles: styling the profile; structuring the profile; podcast-style profiles
	Tutorial	<p>1. Discussion around sample/model profile features (exploring different styles, structures, use of narrative elements, degree of subjectivity etc)</p> <p>2. Profile production teams settle on interview subject; prepare a short set of possible questions; brief report to the class (why is this person's story potentially "publishable"?)</p> <p>3. Review of eProfiles under construction</p>
Week 3: 12 March - 18 March	Lecture	Effective interviewing for print-style and audio profiles: how to get what you need from your interview subject
	Assessment	<p>(Part of Assessment Task 3 - tutorial preparations. Deadline 11 pm Sunday March 25)</p> <p>Your story issues/trend features ideas file must be completed this week (one of the compulsory tute</p>

		preps) - a minimum of 4 ideas, one of which you select as your best option. You will be assessed on the basis that the ideas must be (1) viable/doable given the time available, accessibility of sources etc. and (2), bearing in mind the intended outlet/audience, it must be fresh, current (or with timeless interest value) and capable of producing an engaging feature. Also taken into consideration will be the argument/explanation you provide for your choice of the idea you feel is your best option (i.e. the idea most likely to result in publishable/broadcastable item)..
	Tutorial	Profile writing test-run - print story and short audio package (4 minutes) prepared in advance of tutorial from recordings/transcripts of interviews: Sandy Evans / Debbie Whitmont
Week 4: 19 March - 25 March	Lecture	<p>1. Journalistic Inspiration: "fresh, current and engaging" - the identification (or conception) of publishable in-depth human interest and issues/trend features</p> <p>2. Managing online publications - Content Management Systems (CMS) / web page design</p> <p>3. Brief review of Mobile Journalism (MoJo) tools and mentalities</p>
	Assessment	Assessment Task 1 - Production-team project (due this week: deadline 11 pm, Sunday March 25)
	Tutorial	<p>Interview workshop preparation - e.g. explore potential lines of inquiry, potential "publishability"; draft some questions</p> <p>(If time permits, discussion of progress on production-team profiles; perhaps some pitching of story ideas.)</p>
Week 5: 26 March - 1 April	Lecture	<p>Interviewing Workshop</p> <p>(See website for details of tutorial.)</p>
	Tutorial	<p>1. Review of story ideas submitted for tute prep (finalised end of week 3)</p> <p>2. Canvassing of promising topic areas for issues/trend features</p>
Break: 2 April - 8 April		Easter Break
Week 6: 9 April - 15 April	Lecture	The issues/trend feature – ideas, angles,

		styles and structures
	Tutorial	1. Review/redraftings of interview workshop profiles (due for submission beginning of week, April 9) 2. New pairings for issues/trend projection-team project; some brainstorming of story ideas; possibly some story allocation
Week 7: 16 April - 22 April	Lecture	Vox Popping (informal opinion polling; conducting a "pub test" - bailing up strangers on the street, or at bus stops, or in bars, etc.)
	Tutorial	1. Vox popping activities - continuing from lecture: production of vox-pop story; sampling of/feedback on vox pops 2. Discussion of role of vox pops as element in/adjunct to features
Week 8: 23 April - 29 April		No lectures or tutes this week - study break for Anzac Day
Week 9: 30 April - 6 May	Lecture	Journalistic ethics: part 1
	Tutorial	Review/deconstruction of sample issues/trend features (questions of style, structure, subjectivity, audience positioning)
Week 10: 7 May - 13 May	Lecture	Journalistic ethics: part 2
	Tutorial	1. Production teams pitch issues/trend feature ideas 2. What's required in the "introducing myself" video attachment to the issues/trend feature
Week 11: 14 May - 20 May	Lecture	Journalism and the Law
	Tutorial	Media law and ethics questionnaire - further discussion around ethical conundrums
Week 12: 21 May - 27 May	Lecture	Television current affairs and investigative journalism (See website for details of tutorial.)
	Tutorial	Discussion/redrafting of trial issues/trend feature
Week 13: 28 May - 3 June	Lecture	Review and issues/trend feature clinic (See Moodle for details of tutorials)
	Assessment	Assessment Task 2 - Issues/Trend Feature (due Sunday June 3, 11 pm)
	Tutorial	Issues/trend feature writing clinic

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Book - Tanner, S; Kasinger M; Richardson N., 2017 *Feature Writing: Telling the Story* Melbourne: Oxford University Press - 3rd edition. (a somewhat cheaper e-copy is available)

Recommended Resources

In addition to the textbook, students are expected to read a wide variety of features and other forms of in-depth journalism (print, audio, video etc).

Recommended resources are of the following type (you should read as widely as possible, and well beyond this list):

Longform.org, medium.com, theconversation.com, the huffington post, The Guardian Australia, Slate.com, etc. etc.

The Saturday Paper, Good Weekend and News Review, Spectrum and Traveler sections in the Sydney Morning Herald weekend edition

The Weekend Australian magazine;; Inquirer and Review in The Weekend Australian Life and Leisure, Perspective in the Australian Financial Review weekend edition

The Monthly, Time, Newsweek, The Atlantic, The New Statesman, Wired, UTNE Reader, Mother Jones, Harper's Magazine, The New Yorker, etc., etc.

Marie Claire, Elle, GQ (and similar women's and men's monthly magazines); Rolling Stone (and other arts-and-entertainment mags and websites)

Four Corners; Sixty Minutes; Sunday (and other in-depth broadcast journalism)

Any of the excellent radio documentary programs available as podcasts on ABC Radio National (<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/podcasts/program/>) - e.g. Background Briefing, Future Tense, The Health Report, The Science Show, Rear Vision; any of the multitude of podcasts available online

And so on

Course Evaluation and Development

We actively evaluate this course and respond to student feedback wherever possible. Formal university evaluation surveys will be undertaken at the end of the semester. Feedback from students is welcome at any time - in person, by email, by letter.

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