



UNSW Course Outline

MDIA2003 Features Journalism - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : MDIA2003

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of the Arts and Media

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Features journalism presents an opportunity for in-depth, critical investigations of currently topical trends and debates, the exposure of injustice, discrimination or incompetence and the profiling of extraordinary people. Feature pieces, whatever the medium, utilise a range of

different genres and cover the full gamut of subject matter – from public affairs and politics to the worlds of the arts, entertainment, popular culture, media, lifestyle, sport and celebrity. In this course you will develop ‘work-ready’ skills in all aspects of the production of such features – from offering fresh perspectives on currently topical issues and people, identifying topics which have been overlooked, cultivating ‘contacts’, approaching and interviewing sources, through to final production of publishable pieces. In producing your features, you will explore questions around journalistic accuracy, reliability, fairness, objectivity and influence. You will have the opportunity to offer the features you produce as candidates for publication in UNSW’s multi award-winning Newsworthy online publication or to identify other publications/broadcasters as potential outlets for your work.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|---|
| CLO1 : Produce topical, in-depth journalistic features across of a range of styles, genres and media types. |
| CLO2 : Utilise relevant research, interviewing skills, ethical engagement, and quality processes to support content creation. |
| CLO3 : Situate the practices of features journalism in relevant social, institutional and ethical frameworks. |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|---|--|
| CLO1 : Produce topical, in-depth journalistic features across of a range of styles, genres and media types. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media piece preparation and production task 1• Media content preparation and production task 2• Portfolio of in-class and tutorial preparation tasks |
| CLO2 : Utilise relevant research, interviewing skills, ethical engagement, and quality processes to support content creation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media piece preparation and production task 1• Media content preparation and production task 2• Portfolio of in-class and tutorial preparation tasks |
| CLO3 : Situate the practices of features journalism in relevant social, institutional and ethical frameworks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media piece preparation and production task 1• Media content preparation and production task 2• Portfolio of in-class and tutorial preparation tasks |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Additional Course Information

Students are expected to attend all lectures and classes for the School of the Arts & Media (SAM) courses in which they are enrolled.

Students who fail to attend at least 80% of tutorials run the risk of failing a course. No additional or special consideration will be provided if a student misses out on essential course information and materials, or misses an assessment task/deadline, due to unexplained absences or an unapproved lack of attendance.

A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant learning activities are missed. Alternatively, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Convenor.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Media piece preparation and production task 1 Assessment Format: Individual | 30% | |
| Media content preparation and production task 2 Assessment Format: Individual | 50% | |
| Portfolio of in-class and tutorial preparation tasks Assessment Format: Individual | 20% | |

Assessment Details

Media piece preparation and production task 1

Assessment Overview

Students research, pitch and produce a features piece

1600 words equivalent

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Produce topical, in-depth journalistic features across of a range of styles, genres and

media types.

- CLO2 : Utilise relevant research, interviewing skills, ethical engagement, and quality processes to support content creation.
- CLO3 : Situate the practices of features journalism in relevant social, institutional and ethical frameworks.

Media content preparation and production task 2

Assessment Overview

Students research, pitch and produce a features piece

1800 words equivalent

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Produce topical, in-depth journalistic features across of a range of styles, genres and media types.
- CLO2 : Utilise relevant research, interviewing skills, ethical engagement, and quality processes to support content creation.
- CLO3 : Situate the practices of features journalism in relevant social, institutional and ethical frameworks.

Portfolio of in-class and tutorial preparation tasks

Assessment Overview

Media package research and production tasks undertaken In-class and as tutorial-preparation

1200 words equivalent

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Produce topical, in-depth journalistic features across of a range of styles, genres and media types.
- CLO2 : Utilise relevant research, interviewing skills, ethical engagement, and quality processes to support content creation.
- CLO3 : Situate the practices of features journalism in relevant social, institutional and ethical frameworks.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

In order to achieve a pass grade, students must make a genuine attempt with all the assessment tasks.

Students who fail to attend at least 80% of tutorials run the risk of failing the course. Students who miss tutorials may be required to undertake supplementary activities.

A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant learning activities are missed. **Alternatively, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Convenor.**

Course Schedule

| Teaching Week/Module | Activity Type | Content |
|------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July | Tutorial | Flex week - no lectures or tutes |
| Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |
| Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August | Tutorial | See course Moodle for lecture and tutorial content. |

Attendance Requirements

SAM attendance guidelines.

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes for the School of the Arts & Media (SAM) courses in which they are enrolled. **We expect 80% minimum attendance in tutorials.** If students have more than two unexplained absences they may be refused final assessment.

Students who do not meet attendance expectations run the risk of failing a course. No additional or special consideration will be provided if a student misses out on essential course information and materials, or misses an assessment task/deadline, due to unexplained absences or an unapproved lack of attendance.

A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if significant

learning activities are missed. Alternatively, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Convenor.

If assessment tasks have been missed, the student should apply for [Special Consideration](#), accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There is no textbook for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

There will be opportunities throughout the course for student to provide feedback on lectures, tutorial activities and assessment tasks. Adjustments to the course will be made on the basis of these conversations.

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|----------|-------------------|-------|---|-------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Convenor | Peter White | | room 311F, Level 3 Robert Webster (prr.white@unsw.edu.au) | | Mondays: 2.45 - 4.00. (please email ahead to arrange consultation) | Yes | Yes |
| | Jane Southward | | | | Jane is a sessional tutor - for consultations please email Dr White | No | No |
| | Tracey Prisk | | | | Tracey is a sessional tutor - for consultations please email Dr White | No | No |
| | Hannah Tattersall | | | | Hannah is a sessional tutor - for consultations please email Dr White (prr.white@unsw.edu.au) | No | No |

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/>

[protocols-guidelines](#) for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Location: Room 312, Level 3 Robert Webster Building

Opening Hours: Monday -Friday, 9am - 5 pm

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Phone: +612 9385 4856

web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/arts-media>