



UNSW Course Outline

MDIA5006 News and Feature Writing - 2024

Published on the 28 Jan 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : MDIA5006

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

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 : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course complements the Writing For Media course, which teaches the fundamentals of writing for media, and helps prepare for the capstone literary journalism. In this course, you will learn how to write different genres of news articles and features, including new forms such as

narrative news and live news media updates. You will develop your news writing and narrative feature skills along with interview, research and writing skills for the contemporary media environment. You will learn techniques for writing in a range of news and feature article genres and forms. You will critically consider key writers, texts and audiences for these genres.

Relationship to Other Courses

MDIA5001 Writing for Media

MDIA5010 Literary Journalism

MDIA 5011 Professional Media Practices

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically understand the diversity and importance of news and features to media and communications
CLO2 : Plan, research, structure and write news and features, queries and pitches
CLO3 : Implement and apply industry practice in news and feature production
CLO4 : Understand and apply in practice different news and feature genres

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically understand the diversity and importance of news and features to media and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News story• Feature Writing and Research Portfolio• Long Feature
CLO2 : Plan, research, structure and write news and features, queries and pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News story• Feature Writing and Research Portfolio• Long Feature
CLO3 : Implement and apply industry practice in news and feature production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News story• Feature Writing and Research Portfolio• Long Feature
CLO4 : Understand and apply in practice different news and feature genres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• News story• Feature Writing and Research Portfolio• Long Feature

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Blackboard Collaborate

Learning and Teaching in this course

Refer to moodle

Additional Course Information

Lectures are recorded for online use, and slides will be available on Moodle.

Use of Recording Devices in Tutorials is not permitted

The use of recording devices, including live speech to text translation apps are not permitted in tutorials due to privacy and intellectual property issues, but (translation apps) are allowed for individual writing assignments if the original text is your own work.

Students will be required to submit drafts including those produced using translation apps, dated, as part of their assessments to show the process of the work.

Chat GPT may be used as a teaching tool by your tutor. Chat GPT or work that is suspected to be not your own, will be referred to the ethics convenor.

Refer to plagiarism policies on this course approval.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
News story Assessment Format: Individual	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 5: 11 March - 17 March
Feature Writing and Research Portfolio Assessment Format: Individual	35%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 8: 01 April - 07 April
Long Feature Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 10: 15 April - 21 April

Assessment Details

News story

Assessment Overview

Students produce a news story Of 600-700 words in response to instructions provided.

Feedback via LMS.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically understand the diversity and importance of news and features to media and communications
- CL02 : Plan, research, structure and write news and features, queries and pitches
- CL03 : Implement and apply industry practice in news and feature production
- CL04 : Understand and apply in practice different news and feature genres

Detailed Assessment Description

The news assessment will reflect a different news style to traditional news writing.

See the Assessment outline in class.

No interview required.

Assessment Length

min 600-750. max 1000

Submission notes

See general assessment information

Assessment information

Please see moodle for assessment information.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Feature Writing and Research Portfolio

Assessment Overview

1,500 words portfolio.

Feedback via LMS.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically understand the diversity and importance of news and features to media and communications
- CL02 : Plan, research, structure and write news and features, queries and pitches
- CL03 : Implement and apply industry practice in news and feature production
- CL04 : Understand and apply in practice different news and feature genres

Detailed Assessment Description

Refer to Moodle

Assessment Length

1500 min - 2000 max plus ten percent.

Submission notes

See General Assessment Information

Assessment information

Refer to Moodle

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Hurdle rules

The portfolio must include features and course readings discussed in class.

Long Feature

Assessment Overview

Students produce a long feature of 1,500 words in response to instructions provided.

Feedback via LMS.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically understand the diversity and importance of news and features to media and communications
- CL02 : Plan, research, structure and write news and features, queries and pitches
- CL03 : Implement and apply industry practice in news and feature production
- CL04 : Understand and apply in practice different news and feature genres

Detailed Assessment Description

This assessment requires an interview, and proof via video or audio of the interview. The interview can be conducted internationally, however it must be translated with subtitles or transcript.

Refer to Additional Course Information re submission of drafts.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Submission notes

See General Assessment Information

Assessment information

Please see Moodle for assessment information.

A photo - original or creative commons - is required for this assessment.

Original interview(s) and research is required for this feature, with evidence via video. Transcripts or subtitles required for interviews conducted in languages other than English.

Students will be required to submit a portfolio of drafts (including translations, with dates) as part their evidence submission accompanying this assessment. A one drive link will be supplied for students to submit videos and drafts.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Hurdle rules

Verbal Pitch presentation in class must be completed, with a written component submitted to your tutor prior to your pitch date - see Moodle for further instructions.

General Assessment Information

The text of all assignments must be submitted as WORD docs (no PDFs).

Refer to the AI policy under 'Additional Information' on this document.

In brief, translation apps are only to be used for draft purposes, and these drafts must be submitted to show your process. Evidence of interviews will be required for Assessment 2, and all references to other research should be included on your main document - refer to Moodle assessment outlines for specific reference discussions.

On the first page always provide your student number and enrolment name (first name followed by family name), as well as course & assignment number, seminar group day and time, the story's genre (opinion, profile, etc), and an accurate word count for your submission. Do not include your personal, class or interviewee details or reference lists in this word count.

On the final page of your submission provide the names and contact details of all interviewees

plus interview place, date, time and whether the interview was conducted in-person, or by phone, email, webchat/social media or Zoom etc. All interviewee quotes-direct and indirect-must be accurately rendered in English. Make sure you maintain a mix of direct and indirect quotes in your stories. Interview recordings **MUST** be retained for assessment purposes until December 31st of each academic year. Interviews audio or video (e.g. Zoom) need to be uploaded to a link provided on Moodle.

In this course, the sources of all facts and quotes for practical assessments (A1 and A3) must be briefly mentioned **WITHIN** the story (for example, 'University of Melbourne researchers say', or "A 2018 report by the Institute of Accountants said", or "The Attorney General admitted" etc.).

Full citation of all statements and facts must be provided either by embedding the source URL in the text where the reference occurs, or in a reference list on the final page of your submission. Direct and indirect quotes from your interviewees need not be cited in reference lists but **MUST** be attributed to their source in the body of the story as per feature style.

A reference list of additional sources is also required for A1 and A3, but do not need to follow scholarly referencing conventions.

Assessment Research Portfolio (A2) however, requires Harvard referencing, or APA.

Use of Chat GPT or other AI engines beyond using translation apps to write your drafts, or extensive editing assistance from an outside source is not permitted and will result in a fail. Students will be required to submit a portfolio of drafts (including translations, with dates) as part of their research evidence for the long feature assessment.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

- Supplying evidence of drafts and interview evidence.
- Pitch in class.
- Use of course material (features discussed and readings) in the Portfolio assessment.
- All assessments attempted.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Lecture	Please familiarise yourself with the course, readings and textbook purchase. Introduction to the course and understanding features as a style of journalism in news, investigation, lifestyle, and reportage. Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorials: Refer to Moodle ARC UNSW clubs and societies: a great opportunity to connect with other students through ARC clubs and societies. You can join anytime. International Students can also join the SAM international student teams hub for announcements and updates from SAM's International Student Advisor.
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Lecture	News, features and the audience. An introduction to live news blogging and your first assignment. Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorial: Refer to Moodle.
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Lecture	Story ideas and research Readings: Refer to Moodle. Tutorials: Refer to Moodle.
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Lecture	Story structures - intros and ends. Readings: Refer to Moodle. Tutorials: Refer to Moodle.
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	The interview and the pitch Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorials: Refer to Moodle
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Reading	This is UNSW's FLEX week. There are no classes, but you should use this time to work on your Assessment 2 Long Feature (due week 8).
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Lecture	Who's telling this story: Point of View Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorials: Refer to Moodle Note: Friday tutorials will be affected by Easter Friday. Please refer to Moodle.
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Lecture	Refining all your material and further research- what to use and how to use it. Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorial: Refer to Moodle
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Lecture	More than words: Editing and adding media (podcasts etc ...) Readings: Refer to Moodle Tutorials: Refer to Moodle
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Lecture Workshopping final feature Readings: Refer to moodle Tutorials: Refer to Moodle

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.

Lectures are recorded, and if you are enrolled in the 'online', this means that the in-person lecture is full, but you have the online recording available after the lecture, unless advised the lecture is hybrid.

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

The textbook can be purchased through the UNSW bookshop via the links below:

Ricketson M and Graham, C 2017, *Writing Feature Stories*, London, Routledge.

P <https://www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au/details.cgi?ITEMNO=9781760113698>

E <https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/-v9781000248418>

Students can also access additional readings through the UNSW library readings link on Moodle which will also include published features (the green jigsaw). A number of news publication sites are also 'whitelisted' via the UNSW VPN if you are studying remotely. Please let the course convenor (Kerrie Davies) know if you cannot access any reading material.

Recommended Resources

UNSW LIBRARY SERVICES

The library subscribes to local and international media publications, as well as academic articles.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Enrolment in UNSW's PELE PROGRAM (credit points accredited) and range of other free English conversation classes is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for students from English as a Second Language backgrounds.

Features and News writing are very different writing styles to essays. Don't worry, you will find your 'voice' and style with experience.

Additional Costs

N / A

Apart from the textbook, readings will be supplied via the Library or PDFs on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is invited via the myExperience survey in the second half of term. Feedback from previous years has contributed to changes in curriculum and activities, and is an important part of the development and improvement of courses.

We encourage you to approach your convenor or tutor if you are struggling, or having an issue at the time so we can help, rather than wait until the end of the course.

In response to student feedback, the assessments have been staggered more throughout the course to avoid them stacked at the end of the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Jacqui Park		TBA		See moodle for consulting hours / via email	Yes	Yes
Administrator	Kerrie Davies		311C Robert Webster		via appointment	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 externaleltsupport@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>