



UNSW Course Outline

MDIA5009 Philosophies of Journalism - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : MDIA5009

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 : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Media disruption does more than just alter practices and business models. In many cases, it mounts a philosophical challenge to long-standing ideas about the role of journalism in liberal democracies and developing nations. In this course you will engage with critical and theoretical

perspectives on news media practices old and new, including 4th Estate vs 5th Estate, Citizen Journalism, Fake News, Big Data, Development Journalism, hyper-localism, and Community-Engaged Research. You will also gain an understanding of Field and Gatekeeper Theory, the political economy of news in the Second Media Age, and debates around journalism professionalism, social distribution and the ethics of algorithms, AI and the robotic reporter.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Apply concepts and theories of journalism to critically analyse news practices and texts in the context of the Digital Revolution.
CLO2 : Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society
CLO3 : Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Apply concepts and theories of journalism to critically analyse news practices and texts in the context of the Digital Revolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Essay• Portfolio
CLO2 : Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Leadership• Critical Essay• Portfolio
CLO3 : Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Leadership• Critical Essay• Portfolio

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

Livestreaming of the lecture if required due to capacity of lecture hall

Recording of the lecture is enabled.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Discussion Leadership	30%	Start Date: as allocated in class Due Date: as allocated in class
Critical Essay	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: To be Advised
Portfolio	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 10: 29 July - 04 August

Assessment Details

Discussion Leadership

Assessment Overview

Discussion leadership (individually marked) approx. 15 minutes during a specific class on a particular topic, as arranged with tutor. Feedback will be given via LMS.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL02 : Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society
- CL03 : Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.

Assessment Length

1200 words. Note presentation max 10 minutes (ignore description time)

Submission notes

Short Essay plus Power Point presentation

Assessment information

Assignment 1, worth 30% of the marks in this course, encourages students to investigate the connection between philosophical thinking and the discipline of journalism. Choose one philosopher, critic or thinker from the list in the Assignment 1 forum and write a short essay (1,200 words) describing and analysing the nature and degree to which journalistic motives and methods in a specific setting (platform/channel/business model/ genre) have been influenced by or are relevant to that philosopher's work. Frame your essay as a topical philosophical question, for example, "What would Aristotle have to say about Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter". The short essay will be accompanied by a max 10-minute in-class presentation in PowerPoint that summarises the argument of the essay.

Correct academic referencing is required using Harvard in-text citations, including page numbers for all quotes and a separate reference list of books you have actually used in your research. Your submission must be in the MS Word format. See resources and moodle for Harvard referencing guides.

NOTE: AI Generated text will be considered as plagiarism.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Critical Essay

Assessment Overview

(research component) approx. 2000 words. Feedback given via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Apply concepts and theories of journalism to critically analyse news practices and texts in the context of the Digital Revolution.
- CLO2 : Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society
- CLO3 : Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.

Submission notes

Full Harvard in-text referencing with a reference list

Assessment information

Choose one of the emerging genres of journalism listed on the course Moodle page and write a critical essay about it. Your essay should briefly detail the history of the genre's emergence and examples of its achievements and influential figures in its development. Articulate the rationale and claims its advocates make when comparing their methods and motives with traditional/mainstream journalistic institutions, and analyse the veracity of such claims and the role of technology, if any, in the genre's emergence. Mount your own original argument, based on evidence and influenced by the thinking of at least one current or historical philosopher, arguing for or against the statement that the genre represents a fundamental break with established journalistic practices, and a revolutionary new direction in journalism in the 21st Century, its affordances for journalists and audiences, and the ethical challenges faced by journalists working in that genre.

Submission notes: Full Harvard in-text referencing with a separate reference list. Submission must be in MS Word format. AI generated text will be treated as Plagiarism.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Portfolio

Assessment Overview

submissions (selected pre-class and in-class submissions) approx. 1500 words. This is the last assessment for this course. Feedback given via LMS.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Apply concepts and theories of journalism to critically analyse news practices and texts in the context of the Digital Revolution.
- CLO2 : Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society
- CLO3 : Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.

Submission notes

Submit a digest of your homework and in-class activities submitted during the term. Submit the ORIGINAL SUBMISSIONS. Students who make changes to their original submission will receive a mark of ZERO for Assignment 3

Assessment information

In this course, student participation and performance in readings, homework, and in-class exercises and activities account for 20% of the overall available marks. Students may also be marked on the quality of their contributions to forum activities and in-class discussions. Four to five activities across the term will carry portfolio points, but some activities may not. At the end of term, students will collate their original contributions submitted during the term into a single WORD DOC. NO CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL SUBMISSION ARE ALLOWED. Students who make changes to their original submissions will receive a mark of ZERO for their portfolio. AI generated text will be treated as plagiarism.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

All assessments must be submitted to pass this course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Introductions and Philosophies of Journalism Theories of Journalism Journalism is a global phenomenon, but the practice of journalism is profoundly different in different parts of the world. This diversity of approaches has spawned multiple different theories regarding its purposes and methods, and approaches to models of freedom of speech. Philosophers and Journalists At first glance, these two different disciplines appear to have little in common. But journalists and philosophers share a passion for describing and understanding what our world is, and what it could and should be. This week's lecture explores the history of journalism, stretching back to the Greek and Roman empires, and its philosophical underpinnings and asks why some scholars believe we need a philosophy—or philosophies—of journalism.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Theories of Journalism and Global Perspectives
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	The Gatekeepers and News Framing By the mid-20th century, the dominant model for journalism in the West was the Fourth Estate. Funded by booming economies, sustained by freedom of speech, and devoted to objective reporting "without fear or favour" journalists dared to speak truth to power. Over time, values like objectivity and balance gave way to more nuanced concepts like 'fairness to the facts'. But whereas some saw journalists as heroes, sociologists saw gatekeepers exercising their privileged right to set agendas and decide what is news.
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Citizen Journalism and The 5th Estate. In the 1990s, a triad of technologies – basically, word processors, networked computing, and wi-fi –transformed the way humans communicate. For journalists involved in the business of news, that meant competition, and a world of disruption, opportunity and pain. Empowered by easy access to the World Wide Web, would-be publishers with relatively meagre resources, moved into the space, committed to a very different idea about how journalism should work. The existential question on everyone's lips was "Are bloggers journalists?"
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Convergence and AI
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Reading	
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Cancel Culture Pre Tutorial Listening Task: Is Cancel Culture Really Constricting Free Speech? https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/theminefield/is-cancel-culture-really-constricting-free-speech/12456888
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Fake News, Alternative Facts and Verification
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Regional and Community Journalism in the Digital Age
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Future of Journalism

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Refer to Moodle for course readings. There is no textbook for this course.

Recommended Resources

Refer to Moodle

Course Evaluation and Development

myExperience Survey

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Administrator	Kerrie Davies		231J Robert Webster Building Level 2		via email	No	No
Convenor	Uzma Aleem				Consultation hours zoom or in person Tuesday Afternoons	Yes	Yes

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>