



UNSW Course Outline

MDIA5010 Literary and Narrative Journalism Practice - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : MDIA5010

Year : 2024

Term : Term 3

Teaching Period : T3

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 : 12

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The course will give you the opportunity to execute an ethically sourced publishable long form work of literary journalism that can stand alone or serve to build the foundation for a book project.

You will read and discuss a variety of provocative pieces of literary journalism from past decades, while also researching and writing a long-form article of your own based on in-depth interviews, direct observation of people and places, and selective use of secondary sources in a journalistic manner.

You will study the art of narrative journalism: the controlled delivery and interplay of character, scene, plot, perspective, dialogue and description; examining the craft's practicalities, including selection of topics, angles and locations, crafting a work of literary journalism of which you can be proud.

Course Aims

Employ critical thinking, story planning, in-depth interviewing, and observation and research to produce a stylish long-form journalistic narrative in an ethical manner.

Relationship to Other Courses

MDIA5010 Literary and Narrative Journalism Practice draws upon the diverse range of the skills that students in UNSW's Master of Journalism & Communication degree have developed in order to execute a longform journalistic narrative of 3,500 words in length. In MDIA5001, students learned basic news writing skills. In MDIA5006, students expand their journalistic reach by creating feature articles on diverse topics, whilst in MDIA5011 Professional Media Practices, students are exposed to a range of professional skills in contemporary news publishing across innovative formats including podcasting.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Employ critical thinking when researching and planning a long-form journalistic narrative.
CLO2 : Conduct interviews and understand the ethical issues involved in obtaining sources and using information.
CLO3 : Edit several drafts of a work of long-form journalism
CLO4 : Demonstrate an understanding of technical and conceptual aspects of literary journalistic non-fiction writing.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Employ critical thinking when researching and planning a long-form journalistic narrative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews and research• Longform article
CLO2 : Conduct interviews and understand the ethical issues involved in obtaining sources and using information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews and research• Longform article
CLO3 : Edit several drafts of a work of long-form journalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews and research• Longform article
CLO4 : Demonstrate an understanding of technical and conceptual aspects of literary journalistic non-fiction writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews and research• Longform article

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360 | Padlet blogs supplied on Moodle (non-assessed)

Learning and Teaching in this course

You are expected in class to participate in class writing exercises that will help your learning.

Readings are available on Moodle [link to the Library](#) unless otherwise specified.

The class is a safe space where ideas and trying new things are encouraged. Questions are a sign of leadership, and feedback will be constructive to help you learn in class and on assessments.

Additional Course Information

Students will be required to submit a draft as part of their assessment process and working drafts will be shared with tutors as they are created for feedback and verification of work. Further instructions in class.

Failure to submit and share drafts in class will result in assessments being capped at 50 percent.

Note AI use is for basic editing only.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Interviews and research Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 5: 07 October - 13 October
Longform article Assessment Format: Individual	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Week 10: 11 November - 17 November

Assessment Details

Interviews and research

Assessment Overview

Students gather the materials needed to write a 3500 word literary journalistic narrative by:
Undertaking in-depth interviews with relevant sources and identifying best direct quotes;
executing direct observations of people, events, and places relevant to story topic and angle;
gathering a substantial compendium of recent and historical secondary sources directly relevant to story topic and angle.

Word count: 2500

Feedback mechanism: In class and/or written feedback

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Employ critical thinking when researching and planning a long-form journalistic narrative.
- CL02 : Conduct interviews and understand the ethical issues involved in obtaining sources

and using information.

- CLO3 : Edit several drafts of a work of long-form journalism
- CLO4 : Demonstrate an understanding of technical and conceptual aspects of literary journalistic non-fiction writing.

Detailed Assessment Description

Ignore above description. This assessment has changed for 2024.

Refer to Moodle.

You do not need to have interviews for this assessment as previous years. You do need interviews for A2.

Refer to updated assessment description PDF on Moodle 'Assessment Hub' detailing analysis of one to two literary journalism articles that must be from the list of longform articles provided.

Assessment Length

2,000 words minimum

Submission notes

See Moodle course site

Assessment information

Refer to Moodle.

Note: course learning outcome conducting interviews now not relevant to A1 (however relevant to A2)

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily

demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.
For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Longform article

Assessment Overview

Students produce a 3,500-word longform article in the style of Literary & Narrative Journalism

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Employ critical thinking when researching and planning a long-form journalistic narrative.
- CL02 : Conduct interviews and understand the ethical issues involved in obtaining sources and using information.
- CL03 : Edit several drafts of a work of long-form journalism
- CL04 : Demonstrate an understanding of technical and conceptual aspects of literary journalistic non-fiction writing.

Detailed Assessment Description

Refer to Moodle and class discussions.

Assessment Length

3000- 3500 words

Submission notes

See Moodle course site

Assessment information

Drafts will also be workshopped in class.

Video and or audio verification of interviews must be submitted with the assessment 2 (literary journalism work).

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Hurdle rules

Completion of Assessment 1

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

See AI Policy

General Assessment Information

Literary & Narrative Journalism demands a steady accumulation of the materials needed to write extended nonfiction narrative.

Quality cannot be produced at the last minute, as is the case in news journalism. Each week students must demonstrate substantial progress in the development of the major project.

Once your topic is approved it CANNOT change. Changes to the angle and approach to the chosen topic are allowable. NO changes at all are permitted from the end of Week 7 onwards, so make sure you are committed to your topic before then.

INTERVIEWS ARE COMPULSORY IN THIS COURSE. Assessment 2 requires students to interview at least FIVE quality sources whose career or life experiences are directly related to the topic so start interviewing early in term. Direct quotes used from interviews (that is, quotations that appear in "quotation marks") must be the exact and unedited words used by the interviewee. Indirect quotes (those not in quotation marks) may paraphrase. Ask interviewees if you can also speak to their colleagues, family members or people they admire.

Do NOT interview UNSW STUDENTS OR RELATIVES as these interviews will not count for assessment purposes. All interviews must be recorded and, along with notes of observations, retained for assessment purposes.

Contact details of all interviewees **MUST** be included in assessment submissions on a separate sheet listing the names, positions, email addresses and telephone numbers of all interviewees quoted in your story. You must state whether each interview was conducted in person, or by telephone or other means, and the location, date and time of day for each and every meeting. If contacting organisations, contact their media officer first before trying other more direct methods of approach.

Interviews conducted before September 2024 or submitted for assessment in other courses **MUST NOT** be submitted for assessment in MDIA5010.

Except when doing investigative work, **ALWAYS** tell interviewees that you are a journalist. Except when doing investigative work, **NEVER RECORD INTERVIEWS OR CONVERSATIONS WITHOUT THE SOURCE'S PERMISSION.**

All story ideas must be approved by your tutor.

Use your common sense to avoid interviewing people or visiting locations where your personal security is in any way jeopardized. **INTERVIEWS MUST BE "ON THE RECORD" or "ON BACKGROUND". DO NOT OFFER ANONYMITY TO SOURCES.** If the story cannot be written without anonymity **FIND A MORE CO-OPERATIVE SOURCE or CHANGE YOUR STORY TOPIC** . In rare cases, anonymity will be allowed, but you **MUST** seek permission from your tutor with a strong justification why.

CITING SOURCES: In the 3500 word article, the source of facts must briefly be cited in an informal style without resorting to parentheses. Say "A 2012 Kinsey Institute report predicted last year's recession" or "Mr. Jones' divorce was announced in January on his Facebook page"). **DO NOT EMBED URLs in the text. INSTEAD, SUMMARISE THE KEY POINTS OF THE ONLINE SOURCE IN YOUR ARTICLE'S TEXT.**

Reference all sources (except interviewees) in the reference list at the end of the submission in **HARVARD STYLE**. Always provide a cover sheet to submissions that state your enrolled name (no nicknames), university email address, student number, course code and name, and seminar day and time.

Always state the required word length of your submission as well as the actual word length submitted. **Do NOT** include references or contact details in your submitted word length (i.e. only count the words in the body of your essay or article).

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

All assessments must be completed, with an overall pass grade.

Video and or audio verification of interviews must be submitted with the assessment 2 (literary journalism work).

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 0 : 2 September - 8 September	Seminar	It's O Week. Familiarise yourself with the reading list.
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Introduction. What is Literary Journalism? Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle.
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	From Profiles to Personal Essays: Literary Journalism Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: Refer to Moodle.
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	What makes a good literary journalism story? An introduction to Substance, Style and Structure Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings refer to Moodle
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Generating Story Ideas Seminar: refer to Moodle. Readings: refer to Moodle.
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Gathering the Raw Material Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Fieldwork	Continue major project research in the non-teaching term
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	Seeing things for yourself: Observation to Participation (Gonzo) reporting. co-lecture with Kerrie Davies Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	Feixugou: Chinese Creative Non-Fiction and literary journalism across the world. With Nicole Zhao, UNSW PhD candidate in Feixugou Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Literary Journalism: Finessing Style and Structure Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle
Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Editing Your Work and Subbing (fine editing). Seminar: refer to Moodle Readings: refer to Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

School of the Arts and Media mandatory attendance requirements

The School of the Arts and Media recognizes that to equip students with UNSW Graduate Capabilities to be Scholars, Professionals, Leaders, and Global Citizens, it is vital to ensure

regular attendance. Only through ongoing engagement with peers can students develop effective skills to communicate, collaborate with, and lead others, including the ability to negotiate cultural differences and the awareness to act ethically and respectfully around others. Furthermore, only in the classroom will students be able to voice their opinions, hear those of others, engage in debate to develop their knowledge, and learn first-hand from world experts in their field of study.

The School has a minimum attendance requirement of 80% for all non-lecture classes (tutorials, seminars, workshops, etc). Failure to meet the minimum attendance requirement will result in an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) for the course regardless of performance on assessment tasks or other requirements for the course.

A student may be advised by the Course Convenor to withdraw from the course if they have already missed more than 20% of classes by the term census date. Students may also be refused final assessment if they have not met attendance requirements at the end of term.

An artefact of student attendance will be recorded by tutors and kept by the School. If a student has legitimate, documented explanation for absences (including adjustments provided by Equitable Learning Plans), the Course Convenor may choose to prescribe supplementary tasks in lieu of attendance.

Mandatory attendance requirements for SAM courses are aligned with these Program Learning Outcomes:

Bachelor of Arts (3409)

4. Collaborate effectively with others and engage sensitively with diverse cultural perspectives.
5. Communicate and debate complex ideas in a range of different contexts using a variety of suitable media.
8. Act ethically, respectfully and responsibly.

Bachelor of Media (3341)

2. Critically analyse the evolving media landscape in relation to historical, social, political, material and theoretical contexts, including settler colonialism
5. Deploy a critically informed approach to ethics, justice, and social engagement in media practices, industries, and contexts.

7. Collaborate effectively with local and international communities of practitioners across media contexts.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (4830)

4. Communicate complex ideas about art and culture using coherent methods for a variety of audiences.

6. Contribute to contemporary creatives fields through self-reflexive, ethical, and sustainable practices that incorporate principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

7. Employ professional practice principles to realise independent and collaborative initiatives.

Master of Communication and Journalism (8232)

4. Investigate and analyse issues and, through a range of media, articulate their complexities to a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences

6. Act ethically, respectfully, and responsibly in the context of professional and regulatory frameworks

7. Collaborate effectively with others

Master of Public Relations and Advertising (8281)

4. Shape nuanced, media-aware communication strategies and tactics for a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences

6. Act ethically, respectfully, and responsibly in the context of professional and regulatory frameworks

7. Collaborate effectively with others

General Schedule Information

Scheduling is subject to change.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There will be reading resources prescribed for students via Leganto Reading List that is connected to UNSW library on Moodle.

There is no prescribed textbook for this course, rather longform (literary journalism) articles, book chapters and writing and journalism texts.

Recommended Resources

Refer to Moodle

Additional Costs

Possibly some books, for example *China In One Village* (Liang Hong). These are optional. All mandatory readings are available on Moodle library link.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is invited via the myExperience survey in the second half of semester.

Feedback from previous years has contributed to changes in curriculum and activities, and is an important part of the development and improvement of courses.

If you are struggling to access resources, or need assistance, please advise your course convenor Antonio Castillo (2024) or Academic lead co-ordinator, Kerrie Davies. Do not wait until course feedback, as then it is too late to help you.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Postgraduate coordinator	Dr. Kerrie Davies		Room 311C Robert Webster		via email to make an appointment	Yes	No
Head tutor	Christopher Warren				in tutorial time	No	No
Convenor	Antonio Castillo				by appointment / email	No	Yes
Tutor	Cathy Perkins				in tutorial time	No	No
	Nigel Bartlett				in tutorial time	No	No
	Alana Wulff				in tutorial time	No	No
	Mark Mulligan				in tutorial time	No	No
	Michael Bodey				in tutorial time	No	No
	Hannah Tattersall					No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

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

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

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](#).

Important note: UNSW has a “fit to sit/submit” rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

School-specific Information

Use of Recording Devices

"To protect privacy and intellectual property, the School of the Arts and Media prohibits the use of recording devices in class (including live translation apps) without the explicit permission of the tutor and other class members. Doing so will be considered a breach of the UNSW Code of Conduct and Values."

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>