



MECO331

Forensic Media

S2 Day 2015

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Tutor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

39cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the crucial roles that forensic media play in news media organisation. It offers a brief history of the historical emergence of forensic media, tracking the development of the police mug shot, forensic photography and the establishment of criminal archives. It then examines the broad spectrum of contemporary technologies that are shaping the field of forensic media, including: forensic typical body charts, biometrics and other border technologies, satellite imaging, CCTV, interoperable networks and megadata surveillance, drones, Twitter, Instagram, thermal imaging and emergent technologies. Forensic technologies have now become foundational for news organisations in order for them to illustrate and evidence their news stories – from mobile phone apps such as Metadata news feed to record and communicate secretive drone strikes to satellite imaging to evidence unfolding humanitarian crises. This unit places forensic media within news media contexts in order to address the ethical, geopolitical and social questions that the use of such media raises.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
4. Apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
5. Integrate interpretive and communication skills in order effectively to convey the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Tutorial Presentation</u>	25%	On assigned tutorial date
<u>On-course Essay</u>	25%	1 week after presentation
<u>Final Essay</u>	50%	2/11/2015

Tutorial Presentation

Due: **On assigned tutorial date**

Weighting: **25%**

Oral presentation of a tutorial paper based on the student's chosen tutorial topic: minimum 15 minutes presentation. Create a tutorial presentation based on a chosen tutorial topic. Discuss the key issues and arguments of the topic as outlined in the relevant readings. Illustrate your topic with reference to relevant news, videos, political events and so on. Students are required to:

1. address in detail the key issues raised by the tutorial topic;
2. evidence and illustrate all their arguments and assertions;
3. ask the class topic-related questions and generate discussion. NB: Generating class discussion is a crucial component of this assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
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- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

On-course Essay

Due: **1 week after presentation**

Weighting: **25%**

Your On-Course essay must be a minimum of 1,500 words in length. It is due one week after your tutorial presentation.

In your on-course essay, you are required to develop the oral presentation you presented to the class into a formal essay, with an introduction, body and conclusion.

You will be required to:

1. Outline in your introduction the key arguments you will map in the course of your essay.
2. Discuss in detail in the body of your essay the key ideas and issues raised by the topic.
3. Deploy the theories used in the relevant tutorial readings in order to analyse and discuss the relevant forensic media you are analysing.
4. Support, through relevant evidence, all your arguments and assertions.
5. Supply a conclusion to your key arguments.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence

of forensic media.

- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
- 4. Apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
- 5. Integrate interpretive and communication skills in order effectively to convey the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Final Essay

Due: **2/11/2015**

Weighting: **50%**

Due Date: Monday, 2 November 2015. Time deadline: 5pm. **Weight:** 50%

Word Length: 2000 words A final essay in-lieu of an examination is the third part of this unit's assessment. The essay will be based on an essay question chosen by students. The list of Final Essay questions will be handed out in the course of the semester. In their essay, students must draw on the critical and theoretical material discussed in the lectures and provided in the Unit Reader.

NB: Do not write on the same topic that you used for your seminar presentation.

In the Final Essay, students will be required to:

1. Outline in your introduction the key arguments you will map in the course of your essay.
2. Discuss in detail in the body of your essay the key ideas and issues raised by the essay question.
3. Deploy the theories used in the relevant tutorial readings in order to analyse and discuss the relevant forensic media you are analysing.
4. Support, through relevant evidence, all your arguments and assertions.
5. Supply a conclusion to your key arguments.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence

of forensic media.

- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
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Delivery and Resources

Required Text: MECO331 Reader

The set textbook for this unit is the MECO331Reader.

The Macquarie University printery will set up a unit link for students in this unit to order and pay for their required reader. This link will be posted on iLearn by the unit convenor as soon as it is available.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

Written work must be submitted through the boxes in the foyer of W6A. Internal students must print and attach a completed coversheet to all submitted work. A personalised assignment coversheet is generated from the student section of the Faculty of Arts website at:

http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/coversheet. Please provide your student details and click the Get my assignment coversheet button to generate

your personalised assignment cover sheet. No other coversheets will be provided by the Faculty.

Return of marked work

Marked work will be returned to students via tutorials or lectures. Residuals will be available for collection from the Arts Student Centre (W6A Foyer) after the exam period.

EXTENSIONS AND DISRUPTION OF STUDIES

·Penalties for late submission of work: 10% a day will be deducted from the mark of a tutorial essay for everyday of lateness after the due date, unless the student supplies relevant documentation justifying late submission.

·NB: Final essays are in-lieu of examinations, therefore late essays will not be marked unless you have made a formal application for Disruption to Studies with supporting documentation.

·FINAL ESSAYS THAT ARE SUBMITTED AFTER THE DUE DATE WILL RECEIVE A MARK OF ZERO, AND THE STUDENT WILL FAIL THE UNIT UNLESS THEY APPLY FOR DISRUPTION TO STUDIES AND SUPPLY RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION JUSTIFYING THE LATE SUBMISSION.

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

Unit Schedule

MECO331 FORENSIC MEDIA

Lecture Schedule

Week One: Introduction to Forensics and Forensic Media

Week Two: Forensic Art and Illustration

Week Three: Suspicion: Dealing with the Forensic Photograph –

Guest Lecturer: Associate Professor Peter Doyle

Week Four: Forensic CCTV

Week Five: Forensic Genetics and the Media

Week Six: Crime Scenes: Using Forensic Evidence in Nonfiction Writing – Guest Lecturer: Dr Kate Rossmanith

Week Seven: Forensic Drone Media

RECESS: 14 September to 25 September

Week Eight: READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

Week Nine: Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Week Ten: Geopolitics of Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Week Eleven: Forensic Uses of Social Media

Week Twelve: Forensic Biometrics

Tutorial Schedule and Readings

Week One: 28 July: Introduction to Forensics and Forensic Media

Readings:

Simon A. Cole 2013, 'Forensic Culture as Epistemic Culture: The Sociology of Forensic Science,'

Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological Biomedical Sciences, vol. 44, pp. 36-46.

Greg Siegel 2014, 'Accidents and Forensics,' in Greg Siegel, *Forensic Media*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp. 1-30.

Week Two: 4 August: Forensic Art and Illustration

Readings:

Joseph Pugliese 2005, "'Demonstrative Evidence": A Genealogy of the Racial Iconography of Forensic Art and Illustration,' *Law and Critique*, vol. 15, pp. 287-320.

Joseph Pugliese 2002, "'*Super Visum Corporis*": Visuality, Race, Narrativity and the Body of Forensic Pathology,' *Law and Literature*, vol. 14, pp. 376-396.

Week Three: 11 August: Suspicion: Dealing with the Forensic Photograph

Readings:

Katherine Biber 2013, 'In Crime's Archives: The Cultural Afterlife of Criminal Evidence,' *British Journal of Criminology*, vol. 53, pp. 1033-1049.

Glenn Porter, 'Visual Culture in Forensic Science,' *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, vol. 39, pp. 81-91.

Peter Doyle 2005, 'Public Eye, Private Eye: Sydney Police Mug Shots, 1912-1930, *SCAN*, vol. 2, URL: http://scan.net.au/scan/journal/display.php?journal_id=67.

Week Four: 18 August: Forensic CCTV

Readings:

Gary Edmond 2012, 'Just Truth? Carefully Applying History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science to the Forensic Use of CCTV Images,' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, vol. 44, pp. 80-91.

Katherine Biber 2006, 'The Spectre of Crime: Photography, Law and Ethics,' *Social Semiotics*, vol. 16, pp. 133-149.

Week Five: 25 August: Forensic Genetics and the Media

Readings:

Joseph Pugliese 1999, 'Identity in Question: A Grammatology of DNA and Forensic Genetics,' *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*, vol. 12, pp. 419-444.

Barbara L. Ley, Natalie Jankowski and Paul R. Brewer 2012, 'Investigating CSI: Portrayals of DNA Testing on a Forensic Crime Show and Their Potential Effect,' *Public Understanding of*

Science, vol. 21, pp. 51-67.

Simon A. Cole 2013, 'A Surfeit of Science: The "CSI Effect" and the Media Appropriation of the Public Understanding of Science,' *Public Understanding of Science*, vol. 0, pp. 1-17.

Week Six: 1 September: Crime Scenes: Using Forensic Evidence in Nonfiction Writing

Readings:

Katherine Biber, Peter Doyle and Kate Rossmanith 2014, 'Perving At Crime Scenes: Authenticity, Ethics, Aesthetics: A Conversation', *Griffith Law Review*, Vol 22, no. 3, pp. 804-814.

Dominick Dunne 1984, 'Justice', *Vanity Fair*, March,

<http://www.vanityfair.com/magazine/archive/1984/03/dunne198403>

Week Seven: 8 September: Forensic Drone Media

Readings:

Joseph Pugliese 2011, 'Prosthetics of Law and the Anomic Violence of Drones,' *Griffith Law Review*, vol. 20, pp. 931-961.

David Goldberg, Mark Corcoran and Robert G. Picard 2013, *Report: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Journalism: Opportunities and Challenges of Drones in News Gathering*, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 2014, *Unmanned Vehicles in Humanitarian Response*, OCHA Policy and Studies Series, pp. 1-15.

RECESS: 14 September to 25 September

Week Eight: 28 September to 2 October: READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

Week Nine: 6 October: Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Readings:

Patrick Meier 2012, 'Crisis Mapping in Action: How Open Source Software and Global Volunteer Networks Are Changing the World, One Map at a Time,' *Journal of Map and Geographies Libraries*, vol. 8, pp. 89-100.

Reinhard Kaiser, Paul B. Spiegel, Alden K. Henderson and Michael L. Gerber 2003, 'The Application of Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning in Humanitarian Emergencies,' *Disasters*, vol. 27, pp. 127-140.

Brian Tomaszewski 2011, 'Situation Awareness and Virtual Globes: Applications for Disaster Management,' *Computers and Geoscience*, vol. 37, pp. 86-92.

Delilah H. A. Al-Khudhairy 2010, 'Geo-Spatial Information and Technologies in Support of EU Crisis Management,' *International Journal of Digital Earth*, vol. 3, pp. 16-30.

Week Ten: 13 October: Geopolitics of Forensic Geospatial Technologies

Readings:

Joseph Pugliese 2013, 'Technologies of Extraterritorialisation, Statist Visuality and Irregular Migrants and Refugees,' *Griffith Law Review*, vol. 22, pp. 571-597.

David Campbell 2007, 'Geopolitics and Visuality: Sighting the Darfur Conflict,' *Political Geography*, vol. 26, pp. 357-382.

Lisa Parks 2009, 'Digging Into Google Earth: An Analysis of "Crisis in Darfur,"' *Geoforum*, vol. 40, pp. 535-545.

Week Eleven: 20 October: Forensic Uses of Social Media

Readings:

Stuart Middleton, Lee Middleton and Stefano Modafieri 2014, 'Real-Time Crisis Mapping of Natural Disasters Using Social Media,' *Social Intelligence and Technology*, March/April, pp. 9-17.

Patrick Meier 2011, 'New Information Technologies and Their Impact on the Humanitarian Sector,' *International Review of the Red Cross*, vol. 93, pp. 1239-1263.

Mathew Ingram 2014, 'Social Media has Changed the Way that War Reporting Works – and That's a Good Thing,' Gigacom, 28 July, <https://gigaom.com/2014/07/28/social-media-has-changed-the-way-that-war-reporting-works-and-thats-a-good-thing/>.

Week Twelve: 27 October: Forensic Biometrics

Readings:

Joseph Pugliese 2005, 'In Silico Race and the Heteronomy of Biometric Proxies: Biometrics in the Context of Civilian Life, Border Security and Counter-Terrorism Laws,' *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, vol. 23, pp. 1-32.

Kelly Gates 2006, 'Identifying the 9/11 "Faces of Terror,"' *Cultural Studies*, vol. 20, pp. 417-440.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit <ask.mq.edu.au>.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (<mq.edu.au/learningskills>) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at <ask.mq.edu.au>

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Additional Information: MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/department_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914> Information is correct at the time of publication

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
- 5. Integrate interpretive and communication skills in order effectively to convey the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
- 4. Apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
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Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 4. Apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
- 5. Integrate interpretive and communication skills in order effectively to convey the key ideas, issues and disciplinary debates on the use of forensic media across diverse platforms and contexts.
- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment task

- Final Essay

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
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Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to

critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
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Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.

- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
- 3. Compare and assess local and international perspectives on forensic media.
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Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Demonstrate research and evaluative skills that will enable students to understand the historical, political and technological forces that have been constitutive in the emergence of forensic media.
- 2. Apply critical and analytical skills in the examination and evaluation of the key concepts and arguments that underpin the use of forensic media across different platforms and news organisations.
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platforms and contexts.

- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 4. Apply critical argumentation skills in order to articulate and evidence different viewpoints on the social, geopolitical and ethical uses of forensic media.
- 6. Apply ethical and socially responsible skills that demonstrate the ability to analyse and

reflect on the ethical implications generated by the uses of forensic media in their respective geopolitical con

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Presentation
- On-course Essay
- Final Essay

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
22/07/2015	Formatting issues corrected
22/07/2015	Revision of curriculum mapping.