



MECO800

International Discourse

S2 Day 2018

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Y3A 156

TBA on ilearn page

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MIntComm or MIntRel or MIntCommMIntRel or MIntBusMIntComm or MIntPubDip

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit provides students with an overview of the theoretical framework that informs research in the discipline of International Communication. It takes them through discourse analytical methods that are employed to understand contemporary communication and to make projections of future trends. It aims to provide hands-on experience in research methodologies to enable students to take a scientific and analytical approach to Communication during the course of their study and in future career paths. The critique of various discourse scenarios from across the world will draw upon established theories and methods propounded by Norman Fairclough and Frederick Jameson, among others.

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:

Understand and design project proposals relating to contemporary media within relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks

Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research

projects

Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings

Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

General Assessment Information

Readings are available online in the library website (Choose 'unit readings' and type in MECO800). Readings/activities are to be done ahead of the tutorials which are seminar hours.

All written assessments are to be uploaded on Turnitin. In case of technical issues, Convenor may please be alerted with screenshot of the issue. The test is to be done online during the time it is open.

Assessment tasks are aligned to the unit Learning Outcomes. Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments –e.g. quizzes, online tests

You are required to attend all seminars. As participation in the process of learning is linked to and underpins the unit Learning Outcomes, you will need to apply for special consideration to cover any missed class (if classes have been missed for more than three consecutive days).

Weekly access of ilearn is mandatory. All announcements will be made in ilearn. Marks will be uploaded to ilearn grade book.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Design a research plan</u>	20%	No	7 September, 5 p.m
<u>Online test</u>	30%	No	Week 9
<u>Present a project proposal</u>	40%	No	Weeks 11,12 and 13.
<u>Active participation</u>	10%	No	Week 1-12

Design a research plan

Due: **7 September, 5 p.m**

Weighting: **20%**

In not more than 1000 words, **draw up a research plan to investigate any one** of the issues listed below. Choose a methodology taught in the unit and establish its appropriateness. The

assessment involves identifying the theoretical/conceptual framework, justifying the methodology and detailing the method as applicable to the study of the issue. (Note: 'methodology' refers to approach and method, including details of data collection). You are not required to conduct the study or report findings.

1. Political polarization

Political polarisation is increasing in democracies. **Draw up a design to investigate how the changing face of the media** (includes rise of new communication platforms) **has played a role in this increasing political polarization.**

You may choose any democracy. You may choose to study media in general or focus on any one media. For example, you might consider how particular TV news channel's biases affect viewers' voting choices, or, how the release of political news stories on social media shapes viewers' perceptions of the facts. The methodology that you choose should help understand how voters are influenced by media content and reach.

2. Diasporic belongingness

Myria Georgiou (2013: 80-99)* argues that media must be understood as spaces where minorities increasingly communicate interests, make claims and mobilize identities. While living in western nations, they also sustain political and cultural connections across boundaries, largely through the media. However, the rise of transnational television calls into question this assertion as they cater to broad categories homogenising populations. **Draw up a design to investigate whether transnational television enhance diasporic belongingness or challenge it.**

*Georgiou, Myria, 2013, 'Diaspora in the Digital Era: Minorities and Media Representation,' Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe, Vol 12, No 4, pp.80-99.

3. Symbols of global culture

Studies have established that 'global culture' has not resulted from gradual spontaneous processes, but is a result of tremendous investments of time, energy and money by transnational corporations. The common theme of global culture is 'consumption'. **Devise a research design to identify and understand the symbols of global culture employed in transnational advertisements.** (Examples of some symbols of transnational culture - automobiles, advertising, supermarkets, shopping centers, hotels, fast food chains, credit cards, and Hollywood movies. They are used to indicate themes such as happiness, youth, success, status, luxury, fashion, and beauty.)

The following assessment criteria will apply:

1. **Appropriateness of the method:** choosing the most suitable and effective method
2. **Details of methodology:** evidence of a clear understanding of the method and applicability in the context of the question
3. **References:** this refers to both references in-text to appropriate theorists and the format of references appended to the essay
4. **Writing:** Lucid and clear writing style which is appropriate to academic work

5. **Structure:** a clear structure that evidences systematic thought

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Online test

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **30%**

The aim of the test is to ensure that the methods dealt with in the unit have been understood adequately to facilitate application. Three tests each for 10 per cent (totalling 30 per cent) will be held at regular intervals through out the semester. The test will contain multiple choice questions and will open in Week 9 and be available from Monday, 9 a.m - Friday, 5 p.m. The test is time-bound. As it cannot be individually calibrated, time has been fixed taking into account the interests of students requiring more time . Students will have to finish it at one sitting in the time specified prior to the test.

The following assessment criteria will apply:

Correct understanding of methods: A summary of the concepts as in the readings and as explained in the lectures.

Knowledge of theorists: Reference to key theorists mentioned in the readings and lectures.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects

Present a project proposal

Due: **Weeks 11,12 and 13.**

Weighting: **40%**

This is a group assessment. There are two components to this assessment: oral presentation for 20 marks and written submission for 20 marks. The oral presentation will be done in the tutorial classes in weeks 11 and 12. The written submission for all groups is due on 6th November 2018,

5 p.m, on Turnitin.

Teams are required to present a research project proposal on an issue of significance in the disciplinary areas of communication and media studies. The topic must be **new** and **contemporary**. Events related to the topic must preferably be on-going and should NOT have occurred earlier than January 2017. The issue chosen for study must concern large sections of population, must engage global attention and must be part of public discourse, or, in other words be worthy of research.

Project proposal must contain 1. Title/research question 2. Aims and objectives 3. Background and significance 4. Methodology and 5. Bibliography. Method must be qualitative and chosen from one of the methods taught in the unit. This assessment does not require application of the method. It must however contain all details of the method, including details of how it could be applied. The proposal must make clear how the method is appropriate to the study of the issue, the period of data collection and the parameters of analysis and a timeline. Team members are to work together with each taking up responsibility for one section of the proposal.

The oral submission in Weeks 11 and 12 seminar hours will be assessed on the following criteria:

Content: significance of research topic, viability of research, clear articulation of aims and objectives, appropriate references, detailed methodology and a well constructed Bibliography

Coherence: the different sections are stitched together well and flow easily without contradictions, making it easy to understand

Use of time: the individual members share the time allotted and work in tandem with other members

Manner of presentation: Eye contact, gestures, volume, enunciation, good grammar and vocabulary

Visual aids

Written submission: Each team member is to write approximately 1200 words. All sections to be collected and uploaded onto Turnitin by one member of the team. It will be assessed on the following criteria:

Research viability

Significance of the topic

Methodology

Clarity of ideas and incorporation of feedback

Relevance and significance of the works listed and details in the Bibliography

Grammar and spelling

Rubrics will be available in ilearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Active participation

Due: **Week 1-12**

Weighting: **10%**

The two hour weekly seminars will involve a range of activities designed to explore the academic research process and methods. Students' participation will be graded on the level of engagement witnessed in the seminars. They include participation in discussions facilitated by the lecturer, general questions asked during the seminar hours and involvement in set activities. Constructive feedback to proposals during the presentations in weeks 11 and 12 will count towards the marks. Participation is expected to be well considered and relevant to the unit of study. Rubrics in ilearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects
- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings

Delivery and Resources

Students are expected to attend library orientation and contact subject librarian for access to resources. All details pertaining to the weekly lectures, class activities and assessment tasks will be made available on ilearn. Students to check their student email regularly.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	<p>Introduction to academic research and the unit content and requirements</p> <p>Seminar hours devoted to understanding the significance of academic research</p>
Week 2	<p>Difference between quantitative and qualitative research methods and their applicability to understand contemporary communication issues.</p> <p>The academic research process will be discussed in the seminar hours.</p>
Week 3	<p>Semiotic analysis</p> <p>Group exercises on semiotic analysis in communication studies in the seminar hours.</p>
Week 4	<p>Marxist analysis</p> <p>Discussions in the seminar hours on Marxist approach to understand issues relating to power</p>
Week 5	<p>Critical Discourse Analysis</p> <p>Seminar hours will deal with Fairclough's exposition of CDA</p>
Week 6	<p>Critical Discourse Analysis</p> <p>Multi-modal analysis and new media research</p> <p>Exercises in the seminar hours on ways in which new media content pose challenges to academic research and means to overcome them.</p>
Week 7	<p>Library workshop on 'generating ideas for research'. Attendance is compulsory.</p>
	RECESS
Week 8	<p>Discussion in the seminar hour on significant research issues and coming up with a research idea.</p>
Week 9	<p>Interpreting qualitative data</p> <p>Exercises on interpreting data based on a theoretical and methodological framework</p>
Week 10	<p>Writing the research proposal</p>
Week 11	<p>Presentations of project proposals</p>
Week 12	<p>Presentations of project proposals</p>

Week 13	No lectures or tutorials. Project proposal submission due this week.
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Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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.

Additional information

MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/departments_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167>

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Information is correct at the time of publication

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects

- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings
- Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

Assessment tasks

- Present a project proposal
- Active participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and design project proposals relating to contemporary media within relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks
- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects
- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings
- Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

Assessment tasks

- Design a research plan
- Online test
- Present a project proposal
- Active participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and design project proposals relating to contemporary media within relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks
- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects
- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings
- Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

Assessment tasks

- Design a research plan
- Online test
- Present a project proposal
- Active participation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects
- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings
- Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

Assessment task

- Design a research plan

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual

formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and design project proposals relating to contemporary media within relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks
- Explore, examine, engage and investigate significant issues in the context of international communication and justify findings
- Organise contemporary issues in historical, sociological and political contexts and distinguish by an application of discipline knowledge and research skills

Assessment tasks

- Design a research plan
- Present a project proposal
- Active participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and design project proposals relating to contemporary media within relevant conceptual and theoretical frameworks
- Evaluate qualitative research methodologies and judge appropriate methods for research projects

Assessment task

- Active participation

Changes from Previous Offering

Assessment questions, weightage have been changed.

A group assessment has been introduced to facilitate working together as teams, in simulation of work environments.