



MMCC2130

News Media: Facts and Fiction

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convener

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By appointment

Technical staff

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10HA, 292 Futures Lab

Tutor

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Using cutting-edge media facilities, this unit introduces students to hands-on news production practices and the critical analysis of news and current affairs across different media forms.

Topics covered include: news values; the doctrine of objectivity; the public sphere; broadcast news and mass media, tabloid media; narrative; and ethics.

Important Academic Dates

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

Learning Outcomes

ULO1: evaluate and apply key theories of news and current affairs to news production and newsroom practices.

ULO2: analyse historical and technological changes to news media.

ULO3: evaluate the relationships between news, current affairs, politics and culture.

ULO4: locate Australian news and current affairs within global media.

ULO5: reflect on the relationship between practice and theory.

General Assessment Information

Late Penalty

As per Arts Faculty Guidelines: late assignments will lose marks on a 2% per day basis. 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 (including weekends) after the original submission deadline.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Story Pitch	20%	No	Week 4
News Report	30%	No	Week 9
News Analysis	50%	No	Week 13

Story Pitch

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 16 hours

Due: **Week 4**

Weighting: **20%**

You will plan and develop a pitch for a television news story.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- evaluate and apply key theories of news and current affairs to news production and newsroom practices.
- evaluate the relationships between news, current affairs, politics and culture.
- locate Australian news and current affairs within global media.

News Report

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will produce news stories.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- evaluate and apply key theories of news and current affairs to news production and newsroom practices.
- reflect on the relationship between practice and theory.

News Analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 41 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will analyse a news article and write an essay that addresses a prompt.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- analyse historical and technological changes to news media.
- reflect on the relationship between practice and theory.

¹ If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

This Unit uses Lectures and Workshop/Tutorials.

Please Note: Lectures commence in Week 1. Tutorials/Workshops commence in Week 2.

Please attend all classes.

Technical assistance and demonstrations are given in tutorial/workshops and students need to be able to attend these throughout the semester. The Futures Lab is managed by Mike

Baber, who will assist with this instruction.

REQUIRED READING

All of the required readings and links to multimedia texts are available through Leganto in iLearn. You should read and take notes on the required materials before the lecture each week.

<http://libguides.mq.edu.au/leganto>

NOTE that you MUST access Leganto via the block in iLearn in the first instance. This is how the system verifies you as a student in this unit.

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.*)

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 published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA

student contact globalmba.support@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 Enquiry Service

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
11/02/2020	Assessments: presentation changed to plan.