



MMCC2110

Narrative Journalism

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Willa McDonald willa.mcdonald@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 40cp at 1000 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description Good storytelling is at the heart of narrative journalism - the long-form journalism that goes beyond the "who, what, when, and where" of straight news reporting. This unit introduces students to the practice of immersion, which is key to narrative journalism. Students are asked to come out from behind their desks to research their stories through interviewing and first-hand observational fieldwork, before writing short pieces to convey what they've found. The resulting stories aim to give readers a sense of the character of the people, places, events or objects chosen by the students, in factual, detailed and engaging ways.

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:** identify and critique key issues raised in the production of narrative journalism, while gaining an overview of the history of the genre.
- ULO2:** research, synthesise and apply information in the context of a creative writing project.
- ULO3:** apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- ULO4:** synthesise and critically analyse a variety of readings chosen as instructive on the craft of writing and use these to reflect on one's own writing.
- ULO5:** evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field.
- ULO6:** communicate ideas about narrative journalism article and writing genres in both

oral and written forms.

General Assessment Information

A high level of critical engagement with the set texts and active participation in the lectures and workshops is essential for passing this unit.

All assignments submitted online via gradebook in iLearn will be assessed according to the student's overall ability to stimulate and engage the reader while adhering to professional standards (see rubrics).

Correct use of grammar, accurate spelling, demonstrated depth of research where appropriate and evidence that you have thought deeply about your subject matter are other important factors in assessing your work. Meeting the set deadline and presenting the work according to specifications will improve your mark. Group and individual feedback will be provided wherever possible.

While you are encouraged to show your work to your student colleagues for feedback, please be aware that the piece you submit must be your own work. **Substantial editing by other people - family, friends, colleagues or professionals - is not permitted.**

Presenting work for assessment

In the Writing strand we work on the assumption that you are preparing all coursework as if you were presenting material to real editors in the real world. Editors are people who read for a living. They read a lot. They read thousands of words a day and make decisions about it. If your work is poorly presented, what they will decide is that you are wasting their time. Consequently, marks will be deducted for failing to present work in an appropriate manner that would not offend the eyes of a professional editor.

Use the following checklist before handing in any work:

1. Typed, double spaced, with wide margins. 2. Spelling checked, including proper names 3. Word count done (where required) and printed at the end of the piece. 4. Grammar correct. 5 **All book, film and other titles in italics.**

Penalty for Lateness

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. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Compulsory Tutorial Attendance

You are required to attend all tutorials. As participation in the process of learning is linked to and underpins the unit Learning Outcomes, you will need to either apply for Disruptions to Studies to cover any missed tutorial (if the disruption is greater than three consecutive days) or supply appropriate documentation to your unit convenor for any missed tutorial (if less than three consecutive days).

Re-Mark Requests:

You can access information about appealing grades via this link: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/appeals> Note you must meet the criteria stated in order to appeal.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other peoples' work or ideas. It is a serious academic offence and attracts severe penalties. It is your responsibility to know what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it.

Permission Slips and Publication Wavier Forms

When a student interviews a real person face-to-face, over the telephone, via email or through any other means, they must provide that person with information about the interview and how the resulting information gathered will be used. Students must also obtain written or emailed confirmation that their interview subject has understood and agreed to such uses. A standard form for this purpose is attached to this study guide (Permission Slip). The relevant form must be completed and attached to all assignments that involve interviews.

When students submit their work to a newspaper, magazine, website or other publication, whether seeking payment or not, they must obtain written agreement that the publisher will assume total responsibility for the publication of the story and indemnify the writer against any action arising from such publication. A standard form for this purpose -- a publication waiver -- must be used and can be obtained from the unit convenor.

Note: Your assignments will not be marked unless the required Permission Slip is completed and attached to the work for each person interviewed. Students should keep copies of all completed forms.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Class Participation</u>	30%	No	Throughout the semester
<u>Research Assignment</u>	30%	No	Week 7 - 5pm Thurs 9 April
<u>Narrative Journalism Article</u>	40%	No	Week 13, 5pm Friday 5 June.

Class Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Throughout the semester**

Weighting: **30%**

A series of low-stakes assessment activities across the semester to monitor student participation and learning including: joining class discussions about set readings; bringing to class creatively written paragraphs for workshopping with peers, and completing short tests of the student's

knowledge.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify and critique key issues raised in the production of narrative journalism, while gaining an overview of the history of the genre.
- apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- synthesise and critically analyse a variety of readings chosen as instructive on the craft of writing and use these to reflect on one's own writing.
- evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field.
- communicate ideas about narrative journalism article and writing genres in both oral and written forms.

Research Assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Week 7 - 5pm Thurs 9 April**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will submit a research assignment comprised of a report and at least 6 accompanying pages of evidence of their research.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research, synthesise and apply information in the context of a creative writing project.
- apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field.
- communicate ideas about narrative journalism article and writing genres in both oral and written forms.

Narrative Journalism Article

Assessment Type ¹: Creative work

Indicative Time on Task ²: 45 hours

Due: **Week 13, 5pm Friday 5 June.**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are asked to submit an original, factual article written using the techniques usually associated with fiction.

Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- research, synthesise and apply information in the context of a creative writing project.
- apply writing techniques of a high standard.
- evaluate the complexity of ethical issues in the field.
- communicate ideas about narrative journalism article and writing genres in both oral and written forms.

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

Lectures will start in Week 1. Tutorials will begin in Week 2.

All lectures will be pre-recorded and available via iLecture. There will be no "live" lectures in this unit.

For current updates, lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>.

Resources:

Each week during the course students will be asked to read articles relevant to the topic at hand. These will be listed each week in iLearn. The articles can either be sourced online or via the library.

Technology:

Lectures will be available on iLearn, where announcements, assignment tasks and other materials to be used in tutorials will be posted as needed.

Changes to the Unit since 2019:

Some of the lecture content has changed to improve the learning experience for the students. The assessments have been updated, as have the weekly class participation assignments, in response to student feedback. An emphasis continues to be placed on the formative nature of learning.

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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.