



MMCC2130

News Media: Facts and Fiction

Session 1, Special circumstances, North Ryde 2021

Department of Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Language and Literature

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Tai Neilson

tai.neilson@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

193F 10 Hadenfeld Ave

TBA

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://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

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

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 help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

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 has 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 attend these throughout the semester. There will be online and in-person options for tutorial/workshops. Our news production facility, the Futures Lab, has a news studio, live editing control room, audio recording booth, and editing suits, which are 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 \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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

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