



MMCC2011

Music and Arts Journalism

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

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TBA

Tutor

Ian Walker

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TBA

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

We all know what we like, and what we don't like, but writing insightfully and fluently about the creative arts requires expressive skills and knowledge; skills that this unit aims to develop in students. To this end, students produce different styles of nonfiction writing about music and the arts: reviews, reports, reportage, reflection. They also write an article on a topic of their choice, which they are encouraged to develop to a standard suitable for publication. Lectures examine a range of long and short form review and arts writing and criticism, across both print and broadcast media.

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: identify, evaluate and critique key issues raised in the production of music and arts journalism.

ULO2: develop creative arts journalism through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.

ULO3: apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

ULO4: construct and write stories that fall into the broad category of music and arts journalism.

General Assessment Information

Use of AI

Use of 'Artificial Intelligence' in your work is discouraged and only 'Open' for assistance in the Research phase: and here, you will need to state how you have used A.I. tools and specifically what tools you have employed. A.I. use becomes unacceptable in your work for this unit when it crosses the line and becomes cheating: AI must not do your work for you. For example, it is not acceptable to use AI in your research to replace real interviews (with real people) -- or to replace actual locations you have visited with invented fieldwork. Nor is it acceptable to use prompts for A.I. to 'write' the work; text produced by AI should not be inserted into your assignments. It is not acceptable to use AI to write the assignment for you.

If you use AI then you must:

- Acknowledge at the end of your assignments that you have used it and the ways you have used it.
- In your final assignment, discuss its usage in your reflection. You can add up to a further 100 words to the existing length of the reflection, as long as those extra words are dedicated to the topic of your use of AI.

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.*

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.

Consent Forms

When a student interviews a real person face-to-face, via Zoom or other online platform, 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 should obtain written or emailed confirmation that their interview subject has understood and agreed to such uses. A standard form for this purpose can be located on iLearn (consent form). The relevant form must be completed and attached to all assignments that involve interviews.

Writing Exercises: Writing exercises and reflection on these will happen both in and out of classes during semester. It is expected students come to class to workshop draft material for these and submit these exercises to their class submission sites for discussion and reflection in class time and in the week/s specified in iLearn. This participation will be expected before the final submission date for these individual exercises. Feedback will occur in classtime and will be a combination of peer and tutor feedback in the workshop mode. The final Due date to submit these (combined) exercises is specified here only. Submit exercises in one document to the correct Turnitin submission site for this assignment task by the final due date.

Late Assessment Penalty Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

If you find you cannot submit your assignment on time, please apply for Special Consideration through AskMQ. Make sure you read Macquarie University's policy regarding Special Consideration requests before you apply: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Research report and portfolio	30%	No	25/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Collection of writing exercises	25%	No	09/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Major project	45%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Research report and portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **25/09/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A portfolio showcasing the research conducted for the creative work, plus a report detailing how the research will be used in the creative work. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop creative arts journalism through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
- apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

Collection of writing exercises

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Produce short written pieces to develop writing and conceptual skills. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify, evaluate and critique key issues raised in the production of music and arts journalism.
- develop creative arts journalism through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
- apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.

Major project

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **45%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Produce a non-fiction article which falls under the category 'Music and Arts Journalism'. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- identify, evaluate and critique key issues raised in the production of music and arts

journalism.

- develop creative arts journalism through in-depth relevant research using a variety of methodologies.
- apply unique methods of presenting research in writing for a general readership.
- construct and write stories that fall into the broad category of music and arts journalism.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

This unit offers lectures and workshop/tutorial classes. iLearn has full information and the unit may change from year to year in terms of resources and specifics.

Lectures will begin in Week 1. They will be presented in person and recorded using Echo360 or provided online via Zoom recordings. **Tutorials begin in Week 2.**

Unit Schedule

See iLearn

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 from Previous Offering

This unit is being convened by a new Convenor, Lecturer and Tutor. The unit has been updated with significant content changes to reflect the contemporary journalism and media context.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)