



MMCC6320

News Media: New Directions

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MMediaComm

Corequisites

Co-badged status

In person-scheduled-weekday

Unit description

This unit focuses on emerging trends in news and current affairs, including broadcast, digital production, and social media strategy. It blends practical experience with industry-leading technologies, and critical insights into 'news' genres and careers. Students develop advanced writing and production skills. They engage in quick-turnaround, mobile, and multi-platform journalism. The unit explores hybrid expressions of journalism and interactive news.

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:** Apply advanced multimedia production skills to the creation and curation of news media.
- ULO2:** Demonstrate a deep understanding of emerging trends and technological changes in journalism.
- ULO3:** Practice collaborative, project-based learning.
- ULO4:** Research, write and edit engaging news content.
- ULO5:** Critically reflect on the relationship between media practice and theory.
- ULO6:** Engage with contemporary debates in media and communication studies.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day an 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-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). **Late submission of time sensitive tasks** (such as tests/exams, preparation tasks/ journals, 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.***

Please make every effort to submit your assignment by the due date. 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>

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.

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

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Participation</u>	15%	No	Ongoing	Individual	No	Open
<u>Video News Story</u>	35%	No	18/09/2026	Individual and Group	No	Observed
<u>Journal</u>	15%	No	09/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Portfolio</u>	35%	No	30/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

Students will complete regular, assessed participation tasks throughout the semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Practice collaborative, project-based learning.
- Research, write and edit engaging news content.
- Engage with contemporary debates in media and communication studies.

Video News Story

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **18/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

Students will produce television news stories for a group bulletin. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply advanced multimedia production skills to the creation and curation of news media.
- Practice collaborative, project-based learning.
- Critically reflect on the relationship between media practice and theory.

Journal

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **09/10/2026**

Weighting: **15%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Each student will submit a series of journal entries that will reflect on the production of their news stories, unit readings and topics, and the students' learning. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep understanding of emerging trends and technological changes in journalism.
- Research, write and edit engaging news content.
- Engage with contemporary debates in media and communication studies.

Portfolio

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **30/10/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Students will create a portfolio including examples and reflections on their journalistic work. Refer to iLearn for further information.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep understanding of emerging trends and technological changes in journalism.
- Research, write and edit engaging news content.

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

ONLINE-FLEX DELIVERY

This offering allows you to engage with unit content in your own time. That is, there are not scheduled lectures or classes. Yet, it is advisable to stay up-to-date with unit content (including weekly readings and video guides) in order to engage with peers and complete assessments on time. We've found that students who regularly engage on iLearn tend to do better in online-flex units.

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 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](#)
- [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.

Unit information based on version 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)