



UNSW
A U S T R A L I A

School of the Arts and Media

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

MDIA1004

News Reporting

Session 2, 2016

Course Outline

Staff Contact Details

Position	Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Convener	Peter White	mdia1004@unswbmedia.org	Wed 14.30-16.00 (please email in advance to arrange a meeting time)	Robert Webster Building, Level 3 311F	x52364
Tutor	Kerrie Davies	davies.mediak@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tutor	Sacha Molitorisz	sachamolitorisz@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lecturer	Abbas Zaidi	hellozaidi@gmail.com	N/A	N/A	N/A

Contact Information

Room 312, level 3 Robert Webster Building

Phone: (02) 9385 4856

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Website: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au>

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the SAM attendance protocols, see the SAM policies and guidelines webpage:

<https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

Essential Information

All SAM students must make a serious attempt at all assessments in order to pass the course.

For essential student information relating to: attendance requirements; requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential matters, see the SAM Policies and Guidelines webpage: <https://sam.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/>

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Media*

This course develops skills in the practice of news reporting as it operates widely across different domains of journalism. You will develop skills not only in the reporting of current-affairs and sports news as traditionally undertaken by newspapers and broadcast news departments, but also in the reporting of news in, for example, music, arts, travel, fashion and motoring journalism. The course will focus on skills associated with all stages of the news reporting process, and you will develop your knowledge of how potential news items are selected, how journalists manage relationship with “contacts” and how they conduct interviews. Obviously there will also be a focus on news writing itself – the verbal styles and structures employed in news reporting of different types, and the skills required to distill sometimes complex material into a form which will attract and hold the attention of casual readers. Basic photojournalistic skills will also be covered.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Understand industry requirements for future journalism training and journalistic skills and attributes
2. Critically evaluate journalistic news reporting practices and the communicative functionality of news reporting texts
3. Develop an understanding of the social relationships and interactions involved in the news gathering and filtering process
4. Develop skills in conceiving, researching and producing news reports across a range of different journalistic contexts

Teaching Strategies

Rationale:

The lecture time will be devoted to outlining and discussing the various stages of the news reporting process and to a detailed exploration of the different types of news report and their stylistic and text compositional properties. The tutorials will be devoted to exercises and discussion designed to develop students'™ practical skills in conceiving, researching and writing news, and in critically evaluating and deconstructing their own and other'€™s work.

Teaching Strategies:

This course uses face-to-face classroom teaching, with 1 x 90 minute lecture and 1 x 90 minute tutorial each week, including collaborative and individual work. Students prepare readings, discussion points and exercises in advance of each tutorial. For the most part, materials required for tutorial preparation and for assessment tasks will be made available via the course'€™s Learning Management System.

Assessment

1. Advance Tutorial Preparation Tasks (assessment task 1 - 25%)

Various news story analysis, preparation, production and writing tasks, to be submitted to Moodle **at least 48 hours in advance of your tutorial**. You must submit work for **a minimum of eight out of the 10 weeks** for which work will be set. You must complete all tasks marked as "compulsory". (Failure to meet the above requirements will result in your receiving an Unsatisfactory Fail for the course.) For details see Moodle.

2. Media conference based article (assessment task 2 - 25%)

Researching and conducting an interview with a "newsworthy" interview subject (during media conference conducted during a lecture slot). Producing a soft or hard news report based on the media conference (see Moodle for full details and instructions). For details see Moodle.

3. Exam (50%)

For details see Moodle.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Length	Due Date	Submission
Tutorial Preparation - journalistic production exe	25%	null	null	null
News production package	25%	null	null	null
Final exam	50%			

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Tutorial Preparation - journalistic production exe

Details: Graded against assessment criteria; word-by-word correction of expression, grammar and punctuation. Return of marks

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Learning outcomes:

Assessment 2: News production package

Details: Graded against assessment criteria; word-by-word correction of expression, grammar and punctuation.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Learning outcomes:

Assessment 3: Final exam

Details: Return of marks

Learning outcomes:

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally in SAM there will no longer be any hard-copy submission; assessments must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible it will be stated on your course's moodle site with alternative submission details.

Late Assessment Penalties

An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).

The late penalty is the loss of 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late. Lateness will include weekends and public holidays. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted fourteen days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.

Work submitted twenty-one days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will automatically fail the course.

Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

- * Prevent you from completing a course requirement,
- * Keep you from attending an assessable activity,
- * Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,
- * Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including 'When to Apply', 'How to Apply' and 'Supporting Documentation' please refer to the Special Consideration website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices;

Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management

Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

Course Schedule

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 25 - 29 July	Lecture	News reporting and the issues report (+ what to expect in the exam)
	Tutorial	See the course Moodle website for full details.
Week 2: 1 - 5 August	Lecture	Event news reporting
	Tutorial	See the course Moodle website for full details.
Week 3: 8 - 12 August	Lecture	Scripting broadcast news
	Tutorial	See the course website for full details.
Week 4: 15 - 19 August	Lecture	The art of the interview
Week 5: 22 - 26 August	Lecture	Human interest, colour writing and personality profiles
Week 6: 29 August - 2 September	Lecture	Good-faith news reporting: accuracy, balance, bias and notions of "objectivity" and "subjectivity" in news reporting
Week 7: 5 - 9 September	Lecture	Media Conference - an interview/press conference
Week 8: 12 - 16 September	Lecture	TBA
Week 9: 19 - 23 September	Lecture	The language of news reporting - journalistic expression, grammar and punctuation.
Week 10: 4 - 7 October	Break	break for Queen's birthday week
Week 11: 10 - 14 October	Lecture	Ethical news reporting
Week 12: 17 - 21 October	Lecture	Legal issues for news reporting
Week 13: 24 - 28 October	Lecture	Exam preparation - reviewing key features of the news report

Resources

Prescribed Resources

The textbook for this course is Lambie, Stephen, 2013/2014 (older editions OK), *News As It Happens - An Introduction to Journalism*, Oxford University Press, Australia and New Zealand. This is a required resource. It can be purchased from the UNSW bookshop. A cheaper (less convenient) electronic copy can also be purchased from the bookshop.

Other resources will be available for download from the course Moodle website.

Recommended Resources

See course Moodle website for details

Course Evaluation and Development

Course evaluation and development

A CATEI student evaluation of the course will be conducted, along with some "focus group"-style surveying.