

MECM40003 Researching Audiences and Reception

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	4 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2010, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus. On campus
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 2 Total Time Commitment: 120
Prerequisites:	Students should be eligible for study at the 4th or 5th year level.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	None
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Subject Overview:	This subject examines diverse notions of audience power and introduces various research approaches to investigating forms of audience practices and patterns of consumption in an ever-changing mediascape. It provides a detailed understanding of the different ways in which questions of media impact and audience power have been theorised, conceptualised and examined across the history of mass communication research. Students will be encouraged to deepen their understanding of contemporary audience research methodologies from both administrative and critical points of views and to develop critical evaluation skills deployed in relation to these. Approaches examined will include early media effects studies rooted in the behavioural paradigm, and sociological studies of public beliefs and opinion formation, as well as political economy of globalisation and its (re)construction of audiences and more recent approaches inspired by cultural studies and varieties of feminism that explore audiences as culturally situated and as active sense makers. Students will consider different audiences, media and genres across the course and engage in focused study of selected audiences and processes of reception.
Objectives:	Students who complete this subject will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # be able to demonstrate high level of understanding of key studies and major theoretical frameworks deployed in the analysis of media audiences and processes of reception; # be able to identify how changing frameworks of analysis and conceptualisation of "audiences" prompt different questions and forms of analysis deployed in both industrial and academic research and how these have changed over time; and # be able to critically evaluate research-based studies of audiences that are inspired by different theoretical frameworks and approaches.
Assessment:	A written audience research proposal of 1000 words 25% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute oral presentation of audience research proposal 15% (due mid-semester), a written audience research report of 4000 words 60% (due at the end of semester). Students must attend 80% of classes to be eligible for assessment.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available.

Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<p>Students who successfully complete this subject will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # be able to understand diverse forms of cultural practices and interactions in relation to historical and social context; # be able to demonstrate skills in research and critical evaluation; # be able to present ideas in both verbal and written form and in conformity to conventions of academic presentation; and # be able to apply effective cross-cultural communication skills in group discussions and everyday interactions.
Related Course(s):	<p>Bachelor of Arts (Honours)(Media and Communications) Master of Arts (Science, Communication and Society) Master of Global Media Communication Master of Publishing and Communications Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Editing and Communications) Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Media and Communication)</p>
Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:	Media and Communication