

MECM40007 Journalism Studies

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	4 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2010, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus. On campus
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 2 Total Time Commitment: 120
Prerequisites:	Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Media and Communications, or another MA/Honours degree that has gained approval to offer this subject as an elective, or approval from the subject coordinator.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	Formerly 100-420 Journalism: Practice and Theory. Students who have completed 100-420 Journalism: Practice and Theory are not permitted to enrol in this subject.
Core Participation Requirements:	None
Coordinator:	Dr David Nolan
Contact:	David Nolan d.nolan@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:d.nolan@unimelb.edu.au)
Subject Overview:	This subject aims to provide students with an informed understanding of news organisation and professional practice, their informing determinants and impact on news representations. The course reviews and evaluates a wide range of theoretical frameworks and research studies and invites students to apply competing models to news materials and ethnographic and journalistic accounts of professional practice. This discussion of journalism as practice is then contrasted to normative liberal and professional views of journalism as "fourth estate", "independent watchdog" and provider of "factual" information and neutral conduit of political opinion. Changing genres of journalism and news epistemologies ("ways of knowing") including tabloid TV news, current affairs programming as well as popular, serious, advertorial and online forms of newspapers are all consulted and related to wider debates about journalism in late-modern and so-called "post-journalism" societies.
Objectives:	Students who complete this subject will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # be able to demonstrate a familiarity with, and critical understanding of, political-economic, social-organisational and cultural approaches to understanding journalism; # be able to understand how journalism may be approached as a cultural field of practice, and how forces both within and outside the field impact upon it; # be able to consider developments in journalism formats and practices, in terms of the challenges they pose to practitioners, and their broader social implications; and # be able to draw on a critical understanding of existing research approaches to critically explore the relation between practices and theories of journalism and textual representations.
Assessment:	A media report of 2500 words 50% (due mid-semester) and an essay of 2500 words 50% (due at the end of semester). Students must attend at least 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"> # possess the capacity to critically reflect on the relations between social structures and practices; # possess the capacity to conduct research and apply knowledge to develop informed critical arguments; # possess the capacity to articulate knowledge and understanding in oral and written communication; and # possess the capacity to design, conduct and report original research.
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