

MDIA 304 News Culture

Trimester 1 2011

28 February to 3 July 2011

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	28 February to 3 June 2011
Mid-trimester break:	18 April to 1 May 2011
Study week:	6 to 10 June 2011
Study/Examination Period:	10 June to 2 July 2011
Last piece of assessment due:	2 June 2011

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course coordinators and lecturers:

Dr Angi Buettner angi.buettner@vuw.ac.nz (04) 463 5070 Room 002, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office hours: Monday 1:00pm – 2:00pm, and by appointment.

Dr Thierry Jutel thierry.jutel@vuw.ac.nz (04) 463 9737 Room 202, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office hours: Monday 1:30pm – 2:30pm, Tuesday 11:00pm – 12pm; and by appointment.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday 3pm until 5pm FT77 LT 306

Tutorials

Stream 1: 83 FT Room 203

Tuesdays 1.10pm until 2pm
Tuesdays 2.10pm until 3pm
Tuesdays 3.10pm until 4pm

Stream 2: 77 FT Room 205

Tuesdays 1.10pm until 2pm
Tuesdays 2.10pm until 3pm
Tuesdays 3.10pm until 4pm

Tutorial enrolment will take place after the first lecture through the online S-Cubed system. Further details can be found on the MDIA 304 Blackboard site.

COURSE DELIVERY

There are weekly 2-hour lectures and ten (10) tutorials. See the weekly schedule for details.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

This course initially introduces students to the history, theories, genres, and culture of news media; thereafter, it considers contemporary news texts and practices in terms of the contexts of globalisation, changes to the cultural field of journalism/media, and the advent of digital technologies.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate:

- A knowledge of the history of news culture within the wider context of the advent of communication and the culture industry.
- Literacies regarding the logics, imperatives and discourses that characterize the field of news journalism.
- An understanding of the public sphere roles of journalism and news culture.
- An understanding of the transformation, in the digital age, of news culture, and its practices and genres.
- Enhanced literacies in textual and contextual analysis.
- Enhanced literacies re the field of the media.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

This course is worth 20 points, and expectations are that one point equates to 10 hours of work, spread over the trimester.

READINGS

Essential texts

MDIA 304 Reader

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

First Essay - 30%

Length: 1500 words

Due 2.00pm, Thursday 31 March (Drop Slot at Media Studies Office)

The essay covers material dealt with in lectures from weeks 1–4 (inclusive)

This assignment relates to objectives 1, 2, 5 & 6

Second Essay - 30 %

Length: 1500 words

Due: 2.00pm, Thursday 12 May (Drop Slot at Media Studies Office)

The second essay covers material dealt with in lectures from weeks 5–8 (inclusive).

This assignment relates to objectives 2, 3, 5 & 6.

Take-home Assignment - 40%

Length: 2000 words (2 x 1000 word essays)

Due 2.00pm, Thursday 2 June (Drop Slot at Media Studies Office)

The take-home assignment covers material dealt in lectures during the whole course and especially weeks 9-11 (inclusive).

This assignment relates to objectives 4, 5 & 6.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must submit all pieces of assessment in order to pass the course.

Attendance in tutorials is mandatory. Exemptions are allowed for those with proper medical certificate or equivalent.

All readings are to be done BEFORE class.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i.e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	28 February	Introduction: News Culture No Tutorials
Week 2	7 March	News Journalism: Genres and Mediums Tutorials commence this week
Week 3	14 March	News Culture and the Field of Journalism
Week 4	21 March	News and the Public Sphere
Week 5	28 March	News as Spectacle and Entertainment First Essay due Thursday 31 March 2011
Week 6	4 April	News and Networks in the Digital Age
Week 7	11 April	Citizen Journalism, Wikileaks, Technology and the Future of Journalism
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 18 April– Sunday 1 May 2011		
Week 8	2 May	Politics
Week 9	9 May	War Second Essay due Thursday 12 May 2011
Week 10	16 May	Nature
Week 11	23 May	Recap of material from weeks 8-12 Take home assignment available on Blackboard Monday 23 rd May after lecture
Week 12	30 May	No lecture or tutorials Take home exam due Thursday 2nd June 2011
Study Week: Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011		
Examination Period: Friday 10 June to Saturday 2 July 2011		