

MDIA 304 News Culture

Trimester 1 2013

4 March to 3 July 2013

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 7 June 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break:	22 to 28 April 2013

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Dr Angi Buettner angi.buettner@vuw.ac.nz (04) 463 5070 Room 002, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office hours: Tuesday 2-3pm and Thursday 1-2pm.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Thursday	2.10-4pm	77FT306
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Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 304 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorials" and then follow the instructions under the "SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions" link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the Administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

There are weekly 2-hour lectures and 50-min tutorials. See the weekly schedule for details.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All course-related information will be posted on the MDIA 304 Blackboard site.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

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

Students passing the course should be able to demonstrate:

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

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 hours per teaching week.

READINGS

Essential Texts:

Allan, Stuart, ed. *The Routledge Companion to News and Journalism*. Rev. ed. Abingdon: Routledge, 2012. Print. (Available at vicbooks)

Recommended Reading:

Schirato, Tony, Angi Buettner, Thierry Jutel, and Geoff Stahl. *Understanding Media Studies*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2010. Print. (Available in closed reserve)

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield 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 customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. You will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

First Essay – 30%

Length: 1500 words

Due 2.00pm, Thu 11 April 2013 (MDIA Drop Slot outside Administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace)

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

This assignment relates to Learning Objectives 1, 2, 5 and 6

Second Essay – 30 %

Length: 1500 words

Due: 2.00pm, Thu 16 May 2013 (MDIA Drop Slot outside Administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace)

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

This assignment relates to Learning Objectives 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Take-home Assignment – 40%

Length: 2000 words (2 x 1000 word essays)

Due 2.00pm, Thu 7 June 2013 (MDIA Drop Slot outside Administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace)

The take-home assignment covers material dealt in lectures during the whole course and especially weeks 9-10 (inclusive).

There will be a recap of course material and workshop for the Take-home assignment in Week 11.

Also, your tutors will be available for consultation on this assignment during this week's office hours and allocated tutorial times.

This assignment relates to Learning Objectives 4, 5 and 6.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

COLLECTING MARKED ASSIGNMENTS

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit the written and oral work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend at least 7 out of 11 tutorials (subject to provisions for extenuating circumstances).

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. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on www.vuwsa.org.nz.

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. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

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>

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 (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.

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 304

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 7 March Introduction: News Culture – no tutorials

Week 2 14 March News Journalism: Genres and Mediums – tutorials

Week 3 21 March News Culture and the Field of Journalism – tutorials

Easter Break: Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013

Week 4 4 April News and the Public Sphere – tutorials

Week 5 11 April News as Spectacle and Entertainment – tutorials

First Essay due 11 April by 2pm

Week 6 18 April News and Networks in the Digital Age – tutorials

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013

Week 7 2 May Sports (guest lecture by Tony Schirato) – tutorials

Week 8 9 May Politics – tutorials

Week 9 16 May War – tutorials

Second Essay due 16 May by 2pm

Week 10 23 May Nature – tutorials

Week 11 30 May Recap of all course material – and particularly Weeks 9–10 –
+ Workshop for Take-home Assignment – no tutorials
Take-home Assignment available on Blackboard from 30 May after lecture

Week 12 6 June **Take-Home Assignment due 7 June by 2pm**

– no lectures or tutorials –