

MDIA 221 Special Topic: Global Crises and the News

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

20 Points



A collage of images from 15 individual websites

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Study Week:	21 to 25 October 2013
Last piece of assessment due:	29 October 2013

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Thursday 3.10 – 5.00pm MCLT102

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2 and will be on Fridays (exact times tbc). Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 221 ST 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.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Dr Thomas Owen	thomas.owen@vuw.ac.nz	04 463 7471	Room 206, 81FT	Thu 10.00-11.50am

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course-related information will be communicated via the MDIA 221 ST Blackboard site. Occasional emails will be sent through Blackboard to students’ VUW email address. Therefore, if you do not use your VUW email address, it is important you set up a forward from the VUW email system to an email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

From climate change and financial crashes, to terrorism, pandemics, and humanitarian disasters, the contemporary world is characterised by multiple crises of global extent. This course examines how news media represent and constitute global crises, critically assessing how media may enable or impede public awareness of our globalised world.

COURSE CONTENT

This course examines the ways in which global crises are defined, staged, and constituted through the world’s news media.

‘Global crises’ are understood as catastrophic threats facing humanity that are of a fundamentally globally-interconnected nature. By definition, they are crises that move across geographical terrains and political territories, and transcend the boundaries of nation-states and national borders. The contemporary world is characterised by such crises: including (but not limited to) climate change, terrorism, financial crises, food insecurity, fresh water shortage, world poverty, forced migrations, natural disasters, colonisations, and pandemics. These phenomena may be considered both as products of our increasingly globalised communication, economic, political, and military infrastructures, as well as potential producers of more globalised epistemologies and cosmopolitan outlooks.

This course begins by surveying the contemporary global news media ecology, focusing on the ability of news agencies, 24/7 satellite news channels, and online news outlets to report globally-interconnected phenomena. It then examines new forms of global journalism practice, critically assessing the tensions between emerging global outlooks and traditional nation-centrism in mainstream news. The course then

considers a series of global crises case studies; examines the role of public relations in global crisis communication; and considers how civil society and protest campaigns may contribute to crisis definition. This course also explores theoretical issues of news and social construction, and introduces students to methodological tools for the discourse analysis of news media texts.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Identify the globally-interconnected relationships and processes constituting global crises
- 2) Critically discuss the ways in which media contribute to defining, staging and constituting global crises
- 3) Demonstrate sound knowledge of informational flows within the global news ecology
- 4) Critically discuss the different ways in which mainstream and indigenous media may construct Aotearoa New Zealand's relationship to global processes
- 5) Critically identify and analyse various news media discourses
- 6) Demonstrate competencies in written, oral, and visual communication
- 7) Reflect critically on the relationship between media practice and media theory

TEACHING FORMAT

Students enrolled in this course are required to attend one weekly two-hour lecture and one weekly 50 minute tutorial starting in Week 2. Lectures and tutorials are designed as interactive spaces of dialogue. Students should come to class having read that week's assigned readings, and prepared to engage in class discussion. Attendance to at least 8 of 11 tutorials is compulsory for course completion.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit hard copies of all written assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Submit electronic copies of all written assignments to Turnitin.
- Complete one 5 minute presentation during tutorials.
- Attend 8 out of 11 tutorials.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours over the trimester at 13.5 hours per teaching week.

Teaching Week:

1 x 2 hour lecture 2.0

1 x 1 hour tutorial 1.0

2 x 2 hours reading 4.0

1 x 6.5 hours revision/assessment 6.5

Total 13.5

Other periods:

Research, study, assessment work 38.0

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Oral Presentation and Discussion Paper: 5 minute presentation in tutorials, accompanied by 1,000 word written summary	30%	1, 3, 5, 6	Variable due dates between 16 August and 27 September
2	Essay: 2,000 word essay	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	4pm, Tues, 1 October
3	Take home test: 2 x 1,000 word essay	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Tues, 29 October

Assignment One: Oral Presentation and Discussion Paper (worth 30% of final grade; due dates between 16 August and 27 September)

This assignment involves two components: a 5-minute oral presentation during tutorials; and a 1,000 word written discussion paper based on the presentation. Presentations will be conducted in tutorials between Weeks 4 and 8. Each tutorial during this period will include three presentations by three different students. A schedule for presentation order will be decided in tutorials in Weeks 2 and 3. The 1,000 word written summary will be due no later than one week following the presentation.

The objective of the presentations is to give students an opportunity to facilitate discussion around a global crisis of their interest. Presentation style is at the student’s discretion, and may involve audio/visual material. Assessment will be divided evenly between the presentation and written summary (15% of final grade for each). Assessment criteria will focus on the student’s ability to: define the global interconnections of their chosen crisis; identify key sites of global news production, and; locate news outlets within the global news ecology and international news flows. Students are also encouraged to use this opportunity to raise questions about their chosen crisis, for consideration by the tutorial group.

Assignment Two: Major Essay (2,000 words; worth 40% of final grade; due 4pm Tuesday, 1 October)

This essay requires students to critically engage with the ways in which news media contribute to defining, staging, and constituting global crises. Students will choose which global crisis and news media sample to focus on, and will address theoretical issues discussed in Weeks 1-9 of the course. Specific assignment questions will be made available in Week 6.

All essays must include referencing and a bibliography formatted in MLA style (see SEFTMS handbook for guidelines). They must also be submitted in hard copy to the MDIA drop slot at FT83, as well as in electronic form to Turnitin. Tutorial time will be allocated to discuss this assignment.

Assignment Three: Take Home Test (2 x 1,000 word essay; worth 30% of final grade; due Tuesday, 29 October)

This take home test will involve two 1,000 word essays. Students will choose two essay topics from a selection to be provided in tutorials in Week 10, and posted on Blackboard by Friday 4 October. These tests are to be submitted in the same manner as an essay and should be placed in the MDIA Drop Slot at 83FT, as

well as submitted electronically to Turnitin. The take home test is designed to evaluate students' mastery over all 7 course learning objectives.

The late due date of Tuesday, 29 October 2013 is intended to give students the maximum amount of flexibility in scheduling their work for this course around demands from other courses. **Late tests will not be accepted** under any but the most extreme and documented circumstances. Tutorial time will be allocated to discuss this assignment.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Hard-copy assignments are submitted to the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Electronic copies of all written assessments must also be submitted to Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

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.

PENALTIES

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.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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.

SET TEXTS

MDIA 221 Student Notes. All required reading listed in the course programme on the final page are available in the Student Notes.

Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade.

You can order student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

All recommended reading listed in the course programme on the final page are available on the MDIA 221 ST Blackboard site.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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 may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and email address for this course:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	18 July	<p><u>Global Crises and the News: Introduction</u></p> <p>Required Reading: Cottle, Simon (2011). 'Taking global crises in the news seriously: Notes from the dark side of globalization'. <i>Global Media and Communication</i>, 7(2): 77-95 (all required readings in Student Notes)</p> <p>Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Globalization'. In B. Franklin, M. Hamer, M. Hanna, M. Kinsey & J.E. Richardson (Ed.s), <i>Key Concepts in Journalism Studies</i> (pp. 94-95). London, England: Sage</p> <p>Programme: No tutorial. Sign up for a tutorial this week via S-Cubed.</p>
Week 2	25 July	<p><u>Global News Ecology</u></p> <p>Required Reading: McQuail, Denis (2010). 'Global mass communication'. Chapter 10, in <i>McQuail's Mass Communication Theory</i>. (pp.247-271). London, England: Sage</p> <p>Hamer, Martin (2005). 'News agencies'. In B. Franklin, M. Hamer, M. Hanna, M. Kinsey & J.E. Richardson (Ed.s), <i>Key Concepts in Journalism Studies</i> (pp. 165-166). London, England: Sage</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Figenschou, Ustad (2010). 'A voice for the voiceless? A quantitative content analysis of Al-Jazeera English's flagship news'. <i>Global Media and Communication</i>, 6(1): 85-107 (all recommended readings listed here are available on the MDIA 221 Blackboard site)</p> <p>Programme: Tutorials begin this week and will continue every week until Week 12.</p>
Week 3	1 Aug	<p><u>Global Journalism?</u></p> <p>Required Reading: Reese, Stephen D. (2008). 'Theorizing a globalized journalism'. In M. Löffelholz & D. A. Weaver (Eds.), <i>Global Journalism Research: Theories, Methods, Findings, Future</i> (pp. 240-252). Malden, MA: Blackwell.</p> <p>Berglez, Peter (2008). 'What is global journalism? Theoretical and empirical conceptualisations'. <i>Journalism Studies</i>, 9(6), 845-858.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Hafez, Kai (2011). 'Global journalism for global governance? Theoretical visions, practical constraints'. <i>Journalism</i>, 12(4), 483-496.</p>
Week 4	8 Aug	<p><u>Terrorism and the News</u></p> <p>Required Reading: Volkmer, Ingrid (2002). 'Journalism and political crises in the global network society'. In B. Zelizer & S. Allen (Ed.s) <i>Journalism After September 11</i> (pp. 235-246). London, England: Routledge</p> <p>McCulloch, Alison. (2008). 'Māori terror threat': The dangers of the post-9/11 narrative'. <i>Pacific Journalism Review</i>, 14(2), 205-217.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Elliott, Deni (2004). 'Terrorism, global journalism, and the myth of the nation state'. <i>Journal of Mass Media Ethics: Exploring Questions of Media Morality</i>, 19(1), 29-45.</p>

Week 5	15 Aug	<u>Part One: Social Constructionism and the News</u> Required Reading: O'Shaughnessy, Michael & Stadler, Jane (2012). 'What's in a name? Language and the social construction of reality'. In <i>Media and Society</i> (5 th edition), pp. 61-74. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press <u>Part Two: Financial Crises and the News</u> Required Reading: Manning, Paul (2012). 'Financial journalism, news sources and the banking crisis'. <i>Journalism</i> , 14(2), 173-189.
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Week 6	22 Aug	<u>Parajournalism</u> Required Reading: DeLorme, Denise E., & Fedler, Fred (2003). 'Journalists' hostility toward public relations: an historical analysis'. <i>Public Relations Review</i> 29, 99-124 Selected extracts from Franklin, Bob, Hamer, Martin, Hanna, Mark, Kinsey, Marie & Richardson, John E. (Ed.s) (2005). <i>Key Concepts in Journalism Studies</i> . London, England: Sage <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Public relations'. (pp. 216-217)○ Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Information subsidies'. (pp. 113-114)○ Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Fifth estate'. (pp. 78-79)○ Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Propaganda'. (pp. 204-206)○ Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Spin'. (pp. 250-252)○ Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Spin doctor'. (pp. 252-253)
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Mid Trimester Break: Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013

Week 7	12 Sept	<u>Climate Change and the News</u> Required Reading: Greenberg, Josh, Knight, Graham, & Westersund, Elizabeth (2011). 'Spinning climate change: Corporate and NGO public relations strategies in Canada and the United States.' <i>The International Communication Gazette</i> , 73(1-2), 65-82. Recommended Reading: Boykoff, Maxwell T. (2009). 'We speak for the trees: Media reporting on the environment'. <i>Annual Review of Environment and Resources</i> , 34, 431-457.
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Week 8	19 Sept	<u>Critical Journalism Analysis Tools</u> Required Reading: Matheson, Donald (2005). 'News and the social life of words'. In <i>Media Discourses: Analysing Media Texts</i> (pp. 15-34). New York, NY: Open University Press Selected extracts from Franklin, Bob, Hamer, Martin, Hanna, Mark, Kinsey, Marie & Richardson, John E. (Ed.s) (2005). <i>Key Concepts in Journalism Studies</i> . London, England: Sage
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- Franklin, Bob (2005). 'Framing'. (pp. 85-86)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'News values'. (pp. 173-174)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Discourse'. (pp. 61-63)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Discourse analysis'. (pp. 63-65)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Ideology'. (pp. 107-109)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Hegemony'. (pp. 98-99)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Orientalism' (pp. 183-185)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Othering' (pp. 185-186)
- Richardson, John E. (2005). 'Stereotype' (pp. 253-254)

Week 9 26 Sept **Part One: Transnational Protest and the News**

Required Reading: Cottle, Simon (2006). 'Reporting demonstrations and protest: Public sphere(s), public screens'. In *Mediatized Conflict* (pp. 33-53). New York, NY: Open University Press

Part Two: HIV/AIDS Medicines Access and Mediatized Discourse Change

Recommended Reading: Owen, Thomas (2013). 'From "pirates" to "heroes": News, discourse change, and the contested legitimacy of generic HIV/AIDS medicines'. *The International Journal of Press/Politics*. 18(3): 259-280

Week 10 3 Oct **Part One: Natural Disasters and the News**

Required Reading: Pantti, Mervi, Wahl-Jorgensen, Karin & Cottle, Simon (2012). 'Introduction' (pp. 1-8) and 'Media and disasters in a global age' (pp. 23-34). In *Disasters and the Media*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Part Two: War and the News

Week 11 10 Oct **Colonisation and the News**

Required Reading: Jackson, Moana (2007). 'Globalisation and the colonising state of mind'. In Maria Bargh (Ed.) *Resistance: An Indigenous Response to Neoliberalism*. (pp. 167-182) Wellington, New Zealand: Huia

Walker, Ranginui (2002). 'Māori news is bad news'. In Judy McGregor & Margie Comrie (Ed.s) *What's News? Reclaiming Journalism in New Zealand*. (pp. 215-232) Palmerston North, New Zealand: Dunmore Press

Recommended Reading: Nairn, R., Moeweka Barnes, A., Borell, B., Rankine, J., Gregory, A., & McCreanor, T. (2012). 'Māori news is bad news'. *MAI Journal*, 1(1), 38-49

Week 12 17 Oct **Global Crises of Today**

No set reading this week.

Study Week: 21 to 25 October 2013