

# MDIA 412 International News Media

**Trimester 1 2015**

2 March to 1 July 2015

**30 Points**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-Trimester break: 3 to 19 April 2015

Last assessment item due: 16 June 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wednesday	1.10-3.00pm	83 Fairlie Terrace FT83201
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## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Douglas A. Van Belle

Email: [doug.vanbelle@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:doug.vanbelle@vuw.ac.nz)

Phone: 04 463 7447

Office: FT83 307

Office Hours: Thursday 1.00pm-2.00pm and by appointment

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard will be used as a bulletin board to post announcements and material relevant to the course.

Lecture notes **will not** be posted on Blackboard.

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.

## PRESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the theories and findings from the primary areas of academic research related to the international news media. This is a research-oriented course.

## COURSE CONTENT

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the theories and findings from the primary areas of academic research related to the international news media. Students will develop an understanding of the general state of knowledge in this area of study. They will develop their ability to read, critique and utilise current research in the field and they will develop the first stage of an in-depth understanding of a topical area of study within the field.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) read, deconstruct and assess academic research on this subject
- 2) identify and analyse connections between academic research publications as they fit within a larger body of knowledge
- 3) suggest ways in which future research might be fruitfully conducted from the foundation of the existing body of knowledge
- 4) independently utilise library, database and published resources to find readings appropriate to the subject of study and
- 5) demonstrate comprehension of the general state of knowledge in the study of international news media.

## TEACHING FORMAT

This is a seminar course that requires the active participation of the students in the classroom.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. complete Critical Review Essay
2. complete Research Prospectus
3. submit at least 7 Class Participation notes and
4. complete Readings Selections Notes.

## WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Critical Review Essay (3,000-3,500 words)	40%	2, 3, 4	Tuesday 28 April via Blackboard
2 Research Prospectus (3,000-3,500 words)	40%	2, 4, 5	Tuesday 16 June via Blackboard
3 Class Participation	10%	1	Weekly during seminar
4 Readings Selections Notes (2-4 page written discussion)	10%	1	Second half of trimester, dates vary.

**Critical Review Essay due Tuesday 28 April via Blackboard**

The critical review essay is one of the primary written assignments for the course and will be turned in before 2pm. The expectation is that the student will examine research publications in an area of study and then write an essay that moves one intellectual step beyond summarising. The student is expected to demonstrate a critical analytical examination of the material possibly including but not limited to assessment of strengths and weaknesses in the approaches, methods or efforts at cumulation, gaps in the literature, parallels with other research areas, applicability of ideas to other topics, etc. This assignment will require the student to conduct a significant quantity of self-directed reading and library work and students should begin early in order to insure that they can obtain interlibrary loan material in a timely fashion. The assigned length for this assignment is 3,000-3,500 words. However, because the written length of work can vary tremendously in relation to the predominant methodologies of the research being examined, a better rule of thumb is that the student is expected to spend the better part of 2 weeks working on this project, roughly 30-35 hours.

The use of the following writing guide is recommended:

[www.cqpress.com/docs/college/VanBelle\\_WritingAppendix.pdf](http://www.cqpress.com/docs/college/VanBelle_WritingAppendix.pdf)

Students are also expected to use a standard style guide for formatting references and footnotes.

This assessment focuses primarily on learning objectives 2, 3 and 4.

**Research Prospectus due Tuesday 16 June via Blackboard**

The research prospectus is intended to build upon the critical review essay. However, students who are unhappy with their critical review essay may opt to undertake the additional work of creating a new literature review. Other than the extra work, there is no penalty in switching topics. This essay will detail an argument addressing the “where next?” question in regards to and area of research inquiry. Students considering moving on to Master’s in Media Studies are encouraged to put this argument in the form of a

detailed research proposal which could be combined with an edited version of the critical review essay to create a document that might serve as a proposal for a Master's thesis. Other options can include more general arguments about where this field of research should move, what other fields of study could benefit by reading or engaging this field of study in a specific way, or any other argument that tackles a what next kind of question. The assigned length for this assignment is 3,000-3,500 words. However, because the written length of work can vary tremendously in relation to the predominant methodologies of the research being examined, a better rule of thumb is that the student is expected to spend the better part of 3 weeks working on this project, roughly 30-35 hours.

### **Participation**

Student participation in the classroom will be assessed. A key part of this assessment will be the weekly preparation notes. These are notes, questions and discussion points distilled from the readings. They are meant to facilitate discussion and must be completed before each seminar meeting. Two copies should be brought to the seminar, one to be turned in at the start of the seminar and one for the student to use during the discussion. At least 7 out of 10 of these must be completed to complete this assessment. This assessment primarily addresses learning objective 1.

### **Readings Selection Notes**

Developing the skills to explore a subject and find readings of significance is a point of emphasis in this course. In the second half of the trimester, every student will select a portion of the readings for a seminar meeting. Students are expected to find and select one or two key readings from subject area related to their critical review essay. These will then be assigned as reading for the whole class and used as the focus of discussion for one half of a seminar. The student selecting the readings will also provide to the class a bibliography of related readings. This will be turned in to the instructor along with a 2-4 page written discussion of the logic of exploration, selection and rejection of possible readings and relate that to the subject, the starting point (if one was offered by the instructor) and the student's interests.

### **Additional notes on written assignments**

Always keep a copy of the finished essay, project or workshop assignment. It is your responsibility to submit the assignment on time, and in the event of loss, regardless of fault, it is in your best interest to be able to immediately make a new copy available.

All text should be printed and double-spaced unless otherwise instructed. The lecturer prefers 12-point Times Roman or similar serif font for the main essay text and a 10-point font for footnote/endnote details. Assignments must be stapled and each page numbered. Do not use plastic covers or binders. A stack of essays in plastic covers exhibits many of the same qualities as a stack of live fish.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

**IMPORTANT: All essays must be submitted in both electronic form through Blackboard before midnight on the due date and as a hardcopy into 83FT MDIA drop slot. The Blackboard submission will be the submission of record. The hardcopy must be turned in within 36 hours of the Blackboard due date and must be identical to the Blackboard copy.**

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: *83 Fairlie Terrace*. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to [media-studies@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:media-studies@vuw.ac.nz)

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. 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

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **Note: Regardless of how late your assignment is, turn it in. No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

### 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.

## SET TEXTS.

Readings will be made available electronically and on closed reserve.

## RECOMMENDED READING

Students will pursue a significant amount of independently-selected reading material and should be aware that costs may be associated with obtaining books or articles through interlibrary loan.

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. Do note that feedback solicited from students during the course is primarily intended for the refinement of the next time a course is delivered. It is unusual to be able to immediately incorporate feedback into the current course delivery.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies  
MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 412

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	4 March	Topic Areas and Guidance on reading selection strategies.
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Week 2	11 March	TBC
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Week 3	18 March	TBC
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Week 4	25 March	TBC
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Week 5	1 April	TBC
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**Easter/Mid Trimester Break:** Friday 3 to Sunday 19 April 2015

Week 6	22 April	TBC
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Week 7	29 April	TBC
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Week 8	6 May	TBC
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Week 9	13 May	TBC
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Week 10	20 May	TBC
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Week 11	27 May	TBC
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Week 12	3 June	TBC
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