

MDIA 220: Special Topic: Media and War

Trimester 2 2016

11 July to 13 November 2016

20 Points



Source: <http://www.dronesurvivalguide.org/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016
 Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016
 Last assessment item due: 25 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Tuesday 3.10pm-5.00pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT 103

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via myAllocator. Instructions can be found on the MDIA 102 site on Blackboard under "Tutorial instructions". Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference. Tutorial rooms will be listed on myAllocator, Blackboard and on the noticeboard outside the administration office at 83 Fairlie Terrace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Kim Wheatley
Email: Kim.Wheatley@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 04 463 7445
Room: 102, 81 Fairlie Terrace
Office Hours: 4.00pm Wednesdays

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course related information will be communicated via the MDIA 220 ST Blackboard site. Occasional emails will be sent through Blackboard to students' VUW email address.

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

Representations of war have become increasingly ubiquitous. This course examines a number of recent examples, both local and global, that deploy the language of warfare. Drawing on these case studies we develop a critical assessment of everyday media and its relationship to power and war.

COURSE CONTENT

This course examines the relationship between media and war. It begins by exploring the operation of power as a mediated and affective set of relations that shape our understandings of war. The course then proceeds to work through several different theoretical conceptions of how media are weaponised and employed to enact and support warfare. The frameworks from parts one and two will provide a critical and methodological toolkit for students to draw upon in the final section of the course, which will involve the analysis of a series of contemporary conflicts and crises.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Critically reflect on the ways in which media are employed to shape and carry out warfare.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the operation of power and affect in a variety of contexts, both global and local.
- 3) Engage with and apply theory and literature concerning the relationships between media, war and power.
- 4) Construct and convey an academic argument that combines media theory and analysis.

TEACHING FORMAT

Students enrolled in this course are required to attend one weekly two-hour lecture and one weekly 50 minute tutorial (tutorials start in Week 2). Lectures and tutorials are designed as interactive spaces for shared discussion. Students should come to class having read that week's assigned readings, and prepared to engage in class discussion.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

1. Attend at least 8 of the 10 scheduled tutorials (weeks 2-11) in order to develop the skills required for proficiency in the CLOs.
2. Achieve at least a 40% grade (before any lateness penalties) in each of assignments 1, 2 and 3 in order to demonstrate proficiencies in all CLOs.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or 13 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 39.0

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Critical Analysis: 1,500 word reading analysis	25%	2, 3, 4	5pm Monday 1 August
2 Essay: 2,000 word essay	35%	1, 3, 4	5pm Monday 5 September
3 Take Home Test: 2x 1,000 word essay	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	5pm Tuesday 25 October

Assignment One: Critical Analysis (1,500 words; worth 25% of final grade; due 5pm Monday 1 August

This assignment covers material from Part 1 of the course. Students are required to write a critical analysis which engages with the readings for Week 2 **or** Week 3.

Detailed assignment instructions, including marking criteria, will be made available in Week 1.

Assignment Two: Essay (2,000 words; worth 35% of final grade; due 5pm Monday 5 September

This assignment covers material from Part 2 of the course. It requires students to write an essay that engages with the use of media in warfare, and is to be based around the analysis of a specific media example.

Detailed assignment instructions, including marking criteria, will be made available in Week 4.

Assignment Three: Take Home Test (2 x 1,000 word essay; worth 40% of final grade; due 5pm Tuesday 25 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 Week 11. The take home test is designed to evaluate students' mastery over all four course learning objectives, with a particular focus on Part 3 of the course (Weeks 7-12).

The marking criteria for the take home test will be made available in Week 11.

Marking Scale:

A+ 90-100%, **A** 85-89%, **A-** 80-84%, **B+** 75-79%, **B** 70-74%, **B-** 65-69%, **C+** 60-64%, **C** 55-59%, **C-** 50-54%
(Grades of C- and above are passes, otherwise: **D** 40-49%, **E** 0-39%)

Referencing:

All assignments for MDIA 220 must include referencing and a Works Cited list formatted in MLA style (see SEFTMS Student Handbook for guidelines).

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

All assignments for MDIA 221 are to be submitted electronically as an *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.

Work provided for assessment in this course will also be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

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. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Monday 7 November 2016**

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

Set readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED READING

Additional recommended readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

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

The most recent student feedback survey on MDIA 220 did not indicate a need for any significant adjustments to the course. However, the focus of the course has changed slightly since last year, when it ran as MDIA 221 Special Topic: Media, War and Crisis. The course now focuses primarily on the

relationships between media and war, with crisis no longer being foregrounded as a key component. That said, some crisis related content that overlaps with the focus on war – such as the material for week 9, which addresses the ongoing refugee crisis – has been retained.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the Assessment Handbook, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	12 Jul	Introduction: Media and War Required Reading: Selected excerpts from Virilio, P. <i>War and Cinema: The Logistics of Perception</i> . Trans. Patrick Camiller. London: Verso, 1989. Print. Programme: No tutorial. Sign up for a tutorial this week via myAllocator.
Week 2	19 Jul	Part 1: Affect and Power Affect: The Production of Fear Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Ahmed, S. <i>The Cultural Politics of Emotion</i> . Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2004. Print. Selected excerpts from: Davis, M. <i>Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster</i> . New York: Vintage Books, 1999. Print. Programme: Tutorials begin this week.
Week 3	26 Jul	Power: Colonialism and Orientalism Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Hall, S. "The West and the Rest." <i>Formations of Modernity</i> . Eds. Bram Gieben and Stuart Hall. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992. 185-225. Print. Selected excerpts from: Said, E. <i>Orientalism</i> . London: Penguin, 2003. Print.
Week 4	2 Aug	Part 2: Weaponised Media Virtual Warfare Required Reading: Bridle, J. "Drones and Dread." <i>Dread: The Dizziness of Freedom</i> . Ed. Juha van 't Zelfde. Amsterdam: Antennae, 2014. 79-87. Print. Stahl, R. "What the Drone Saw: The Cultural Optics of the Unmanned War." <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> 67.5 (2013): 659-674. Web. Assignment #1 (Critical Analysis): Due 5pm Monday 1 August
Week 5	9 Aug	Sonic Warfare Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Goodman, S. <i>Sonic Warfare: Sound, Affect, and the Ecology of Fear</i> . London: MIT Press, 2010. Print.
Week 6	16 Aug	Mnemonic Warfare Required Reading: Abel, S. "Māori Television, ANZAC Day, and Constructing 'Nationhood'." <i>The Fourth Eye: Māori Media in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> . Eds. Brendan Hokowhitu and Vijay Devadas. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. 201-215. Print.
Mid-Trimester Break:	22 August to 4 September	
Week 7	6 Sep	Part 3: Conflict and Crisis Biopolitics Required Reading: Selected excerpts from: Foucault, M. <i>Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège De France, 1975-76</i> . Trans. David Macey. New York: Picador, 2003. Print.

MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE MDIA 220

Nguyen, MT. "The Biopower of Beauty: Humanitarian Imperialisms and Global Feminisms in an Age of Terror." *Signs* 36.2 (2011): 359-383. Web.

Assignment #2 (Essay): Due 5pm Monday 5 September

Week 8	13 Sep	Necropolitics Required Reading: Mbembe, A. "Necropolitics." Trans. Libby Meintjes. <i>Public Culture</i> 15.1 (2003): 11-40. Print.
Week 9	20 Sep	The State of Exception Required Reading: Devadas, V. "Governing Indigenous Sovereignty: Biopolitics and the 'Terror raids' in New Zealand." <i>The Fourth Eye: Māori Media in Aotearoa New Zealand</i> . Eds. Brendan Hokowhitu and Vijay Devadas. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. 3-24. Print.
Week 10	27 Sep	Larval Terror Required Reading: Biswas Melamphy, N. "Larval Terror and the Digital Darkside." <i>E-International Relations</i> . Nov. (2015). Web.
Week 11	4 Oct	Bare Life Required Reading: Agamben, G. "Beyond Human Rights." <i>Means Without End</i> . Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000. 14-25. Print. Naimou, A. "Double Vision: Refugee Crises and the Afterimages of Endless War." <i>College Literature</i> 43.1 (2016): 226-233. Web.
Week 12	11 Oct	Apocalypse Required Reading: Selected Excerpts from: Calder Williams, E. <i>Combined and Uneven Apocalypse</i> . Washington: Zero, 2011. Print. Sontag, S. "The Imagination of Disaster" <i>Against Interpretation, and Other Essays</i> . New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux, 1986. 209-225. Print.

Assignment #3 (Take Home Test): Due 5pm Tuesday 25 October