

**MA INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM
AUTUMN SEMESTER, 2011**

**MCT414: INFORMATION GATHERING & ANALYSIS I:
JOURNALISTIC MODES**

Module Co-ordinator: Dr. Verica Rupar

Verica Rupar: Room 0.61(B), Bute Building

Telephone:

Email:

Office Hours: Wednesday 9-11 (or by email appointment)

Lectures: Tuesday 11.10-12.00, Room 0.14, Bute Building

One-to-one tutorials (sign-in): Wednesday 11.10-12, Room 0.61(B), Bute Building

COURSE OUTLINE

This strand introduces students to journalistic techniques of information gathering and analysis, and demonstrates how these provide the basis for balanced analytical articles. Students will develop a range of investigative and analytical skills across both semesters, **examining the use of sources including observation, documents and testimony; data and policy analysis; event analysis, interview techniques and social networking.**

The events and issues dealt with will be drawn from significant international events covered by the media with **the particular attention paid to the issues of inclusive society.** Through debate, discussion and interaction with their peers, students will be encouraged to engage with international issues and to recognise the role of the journalist in informing audiences. The strand will also demonstrate the importance of contextualising events and issues and, hence, the need for background knowledge.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the module a student should be able to:

- Critically examine the techniques of information gathering
- Identify and exploit optimally sources of information in preparing pieces of journalism
- Critically examine the relationship between social context, news text and journalism practice
- Explore journalism as a form of knowledge

METHODS OF TEACHING

This module includes the following forms of regular structured activities:

Lectures: All lectures for this module will be in Room 0.14 in the Bute Building from 11.10 to 12.00 on Tuesdays. See lecture outlines below.

Seminars: All seminars will take a form of **one-to-one tutorials**. Please book your tutorial time on the tutorial sheet posted on Dr Rugar's office door 0.61B.

Blackboard: Students are encouraged to discuss the module content, readings and their own media watch column on the blackboard. The weekly readings will help students critically assess the competing theoretical approaches to journalism, and to find persuasive arguments that their chosen approach to their individual media watch column is appropriate. It is strongly recommended that students develop a web discussion on their own projects and journalism concepts involved.

ASSESSMENT : Media watch column

Length: 1500 words

Due: December 20, 9.30am

Worth: 100%,

Your task is to write a media watch column, a journalistic text that critically assesses media coverage of a current affairs story in an English language newspaper.

The objective of this assignment is to critically evaluate the essential concepts, principles and techniques behind everyday journalism practice. The column should critically evaluate media coverage of the selected event and/or issue and discuss the process involved in gathering, interpreting, researching, writing, editing, reporting and presenting information in the selected text(s).

The media watch column should be informed by relevant journalism studies literature and be written in a lively, journalistic style that would appeal to the audience of quality newspapers such as *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*. The following list of questions is provided as a guideline for your column.

- * What information is conveyed? Provide the context of the story.
- * What makes the story newsworthy? Discuss the concept of news values.
- * What is the newsroom culture that stands behind the coverage? Offer some information on the news outlet (ownership, circulation, editorial orientation).

* What is the political, cultural and legal context within which this piece of journalism is conducted? You might consider it useful to look at regulations and/or various documents such as the Journalists' Code of Ethics, editorial policy, news ombudsman's columns, findings of the Press Council/Press Complaints Commission.

* How does the genre of news text (hard news, news report, backgrounder, feature, reportage, interview, commentary...) determine its character? Make a genre analysis of the text.

* What techniques are used for newsgathering? Discuss the influence of newsgathering methods on the character of the story that emerges..

* Who or what are the sources? How have these influenced the news?

* How is the text structured and presented?

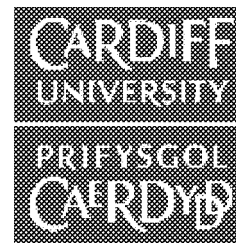
This is a formative type of assessment. One-to-one tutorials will be used to gradually develop media watch column by discussing your proposal and outlining basic elements of news analysis.

Please start working on your assignment from week one. Assume that your column is a response to public controversy over the media coverage of the topic. Select the topic carefully and be prepared to justify your choice in the seminar.

The assessment criteria are: research, demonstrated knowledge of the field of study, structure, quality of analysis and written expression.

The School's target is to return assessed coursework within a period of four weeks (excluding recess period).

IMPORTANT: Please attach the article you are writing about and a bibliography i.e. a list of sources that informed your media watch column.



FEEDBACK SHEET

Student Name:			
Module Code:	MCT 414	Title:	Information Gathering and Analysis Journalistic modes
Module Tutor:	Verica Rupar		
Second Marker:			
Semester:	1	Academic Session:	2010/11

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Topic relevant to m/ column | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Topic has little relevance |
| Evidence of research | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | No evidence of research |
| Well structured column | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Ambiguous text |
| Superior analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Poor analysis, descriptive |
| Journalism concepts identified | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Inadequate presentation of c. |
| Adequate list of sources | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Inadequate list of sources |
| Fluently written and well presented | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Clumsily written/poorly p. |

Feedback:

Mark: (1st marker):.....

Mark: (2nd marker):

LECTURES OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction: who watch the watchdogs?

No readings

Week 2: Approaching journalism as a genre

Readings:

Harcup, T. 2009. *Journalism: Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition. Los Angeles: Sage. (pp. 81-95)

Mayes, I. 2000. *The Guardian: Corrections and Clarifications*. London: Guardian Newspaper Limited (pp.ix-xiii)

McNair, B. 2005. What is Journalism. In de Burgh, H. *Making Journalists: Diverse Problems, Global Issues*, Oxon: Routledge, pp.25-43

[News Ombudsmanship: Its History and Rationale](http://www.newsombudsmen.org/articles.htm)" by Arthur C. Nauman, International Communication Research Institute, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and the Citizens Coalition for Media Watch available at <http://www.newsombudsmen.org/articles.htm>

Week 3: Sources of knowledge

Readings:

Allan, S. 1999. *News Culture*. Buckingham: Open University Press, pp. 7-26

Bourdieu, P. (2005). The political field, the social science field, and the journalistic field. In R. Benson and E. Neveu (Eds.), *Bourdieu and the Journalistic field*, (pp.29-48). Cambridge: Polity Press.

Fenton, N. (Ed.) 2010. *New Media, Old News: Journalism and Democracy in Digital Age*, pp.3-17

Harcup, T. 2009. *Journalism: Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition. Los Angeles: Sage (pp. 59-79)

Week 4: Sources of news

Readings:

Atton, C.. 2011. Activist Media as Mainstream Model: Whgat can Professional Journalists Learn From Indymedia. In Franklin, B. and Carlson, M.(2011). *Journalists, Sources and Credibility*. New York: Routledge, pp.61-75

Cottle, S. 2003. *News, Public Relations and Power*. London: Sage Publications, pp.3-25.

Manning, P. 2001. News and news sources: a critical introduction, London: Sage Publications. Pp.107-138

Zelizer, B. 1997. Journalists as Interpretative Communities. In Berkowitz, D. *Social Meanings of News*, pp.401-420

Week 5: NO LECTURE - WE ARE IN GREGYNOG

Week 6: Newsgathering method: Data analysis

Readings:

Cohen, S., Li, C. Yang, J., Yu.C. 2011. Computational journalism: a call to arms to database researchers. Available at: <http://ranger.uta.edu/~cli/pubs/cjdb-cidr11-clyy-nov10.pdf>

Green, K. 2002. Database journalism. In Tanner, S. *Journalism: Investigation and Research*. Frenchs Forest: Longman, pp.73-91

Meyer, P. 1991. *The New Precision Journalism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp.20-75

Week 7: Newsgathering method: Policy analysis (Guest: Susana Sampaio Dias)

Readings:

McNair, B. 2009. Journalism and Democracy. In Wahl-Jorgensen, K. and Hanitzsch, T. *The Handbook of journalism Studies*. New York: Routledge, pp.237-250

McCombs, M. and Shaw, D. 1972. The agenda setting function of the press. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 36(2), 176-187.

Week 8: Newsgathering method: Event analysis

Readings:

Dayan, D. and Katz, E. (1992). *Media Events*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp.1-25

Katx, E. and Liebes, T. "No more peace!" How disaster, terror and war have upstaged media events. In Couldry, N., Hepp.A. and Krotz, F. (eds.) *Media Events in a Global Age*. Oxon: Routledge, pp.32-43

Kovach, B. and Rosenstiel, T. 1999. *Warp Speed: America in the Age of Mix Media Culture*, New York: The Century Foundation Press. (pp.17-33)

Moor, M. (dir.) 2002. *Bowling for Columbine*. Documentary

Week 9: Newsgathering method: Social networking

Readings:

Cohen, S., Hamilton, J., Turner, F. 2011. Computational Journalism. Magazine *Communications of the ACM*, available at <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=2001288>

Fluw. T. Journalism as social networking. The Australian youdecide project and the 2007 federal election. *Journalism vol. 11 no. 2* 131-147

Hermida. A. 2010. Twittering the News. The Emergence of Ambient Journalism. *Journalism Practice, Vol. 4, No. 3*, pp. 297-308

Quinn, S. 1999. Newsgathering on the Net. South Yarra: Macmillan Publishers. (pp.25-48)

Week 10: Newsgathering method: Interview

Readings:

Adams, S. 2001. *Interviewing for Journalists*. London: Routledge

- Harcup, T. 2009. *Journalism: Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition. Los Angeles: Sage (pp.125-141)
- Sedorkin, G. 2011. *Interviewing: A Guide for Journalists and Writers*. Crows Nest: Allen, and Unwin, pp.1-32.
- Wheeler, S. 2005. The dos and Don'ts of Interviewing. In Keeble, R. (ed.) *Print Journalism: A Critical Introduction*. (pp.63-73)

Week 11: Why journalism matters?

Wrapping up.

READINGS

Strongly recommended:

- Allan, S. 2004. *News Culture*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Cole, P. and Harcup, T. (2009). *Newspaper Journalism*. London: Sage Publications Ltd, 2009
- Franklin, B., Hamer, M., Hanna, M., Kinsey, M. & Richardson, J. (2005). *Key concepts in Journalism Studies*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Mayes, I. 2007. *Journalism Right and Wrong*. London: Guardian Newspapers Ltd.
<http://www.communicationencyclopedia.com/subscriber/uid=60/>
- Wahl-Jorgensen, K. and Hanitzsch, T. *The Handbook of journalism Studies*. New York: Routledge

Recommended:

- Allan, S. (Ed) 2005. *Journalism: Critical Issues*. Maidenhead and New York: Open University Press.
- Audi, R. 2003. *Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to the theory of knowledge*. New York: Routledge
- Barnhurst, K and Nerone, J 2001, *The Form of News: A History*, Guilford Press, New York.
- Bell, A. and Garrett, P. (eds) 1998. *Approaches to Media Discourse*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- Cottle, S.(Ed) (2003) *News, Public Relations and Power*. London: Sage.
- De Burgh, H. 2000. *Investigative Journalism: Context and Practice*. London: Routledge
- Fairclough, N. 2003. *Analysing Discourse: Textual Analysis for Social Research*, London: Routledge.
- Fowler, R. 1991. *Language in the News: Discourse and Ideology in the Press*, London: Routledge.
- Gadamer, G.H. 1979. *Truth and Method*. London : Sheed and Ward
- Gray, D. 2004. *Doing Research in the Real World*, London: Sage Publications
- Gunter, B. 2000. *Media Research Methods*, London: Sage Publications.
- Harrington, A. 2005. *Modern Social Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Loffelholz, M. and Weaver, D. 2008. *Global Journalism Research: Theories, Methods, Findings, Future*. Oxford: Blackwells.
- Manning, P. 2001. *News and News Sources*. London: Sage
- Mayes, I. 2000. *The Guardian: Corrections and Clarifications*. London: Guardian Newspaper Limited.
- McNair, B. 1998. *The Sociology of Journalism*. London: Arnold.
- Pilger, J. 2005. *Tell me no lies*. London: Vintage
- Rosenstiel, T. and Mitchell, A. 2003. *Thinking Clearly*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Rupar, V. 2010. *Journalism and Meaning Making: Reading the Newspaper*. Claskill: Hampton Press
- Spark, D. 1999. *Investigative Reporting: A Study in Technique*. Oxford: Focal Press
- Schudson, M 1995, *The Power of News*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.
- Schudson, M 2003, *The Sociology of News*. W.W. Norton & Company, New York
- Van Dijk, T. 1988. *News as Discourse*, London: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Web:

- <http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/page/readerseditor>,
- <http://www.newsombudsmen.org/index.htm>,
- <http://publiceditor.blogs.nytimes.com>
- www.dartcenter.org
- www.freemedia.at
- <http://www.medialens.org/>
- www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk
- www.societyofeditors.co.uk
- www.ofcom.org.uk
- <http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/>
- www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines
- www.journalism.org

Newspapers and magazines:

Students are encouraged to read a wide variety of quality daily and weekly newspapers and magazines. Those recommended include: *Guardian, Independent, Times, Daily Telegraph, Financial Times, The Economist, Newsweek, Time (European), The New Yorker* ...

Films (all available in the Library):

Good night and good luck (2005); *All the president's men* (1976); *The insider* (1999); *Outfoxed* (2004); *A mighty heart* (2007); *Live from Baghdad* (2002); *Broadcast news* (1987); *Wag the dog* (1998); *Shattered Glass* (2003); *Network* (1976)