MDIA5009

Philosophies of Journalism

Term Two // 2021

School of the Arts and Media // UNSW Arts, Design & Architecture

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Christopher Kremmer	c.kremmer@unsw.edu.au	Thursday 12-1 pm during term BY APPOINTMENT	231J Robert Webster Building Level 2	+61 2 93856364

School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Media disruption does more than just alter practices and business models. In many cases, it mounts a philosophical challenge to long-standing ideas about the role of journalism in liberal democracies and developing nations. In this course you will engage with critical and theoretical perspectives on news media practices old and new, including 4th Estate vs 5th Estate, Citizen Journalism, Fake News, Big Data, Development Journalism, hyper-localism, and Community-Engaged Research. You will also gain an understanding of Field and Gatekeeper Theory, the political economy of news in the Second Media Age, and debates around journalism professionalism, social distribution and the ethics of algorithms, AI and the robotic reporter.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply concepts and theories of journalism to critically analyse news practices and texts in the context of the Digital Revolution.
2. Understand and contextualise the history and philosophies of journalistic practices and their impact on society
3. Craft a clear, critical and persuasive argument which addresses the histories and philosophies of Journalism.

Teaching Strategies

Interactive, participatory and reflective teaching approaches will be prioritized along with conceptual frameworks and applied methods. These teaching strategies encourage students to immerse themselves in the history and philosophies of journalism in order to promote reflection and the application of this material in both future academic and industry pursuits.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Discussion Leadership	30%	18/06/2021 11:00 PM	2, 3
Critical Essay	50%	02/08/2021 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3
Portfolio	20%	23/07/2021 11:59 AM	1, 2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Discussion Leadership

Start date: 07/06/2021 09:00 AM

Length: 1200 words

Details:

Additional details:

Choose one of the emerging forms of journalism listed on the course Moodle page and write an essay on the history of that genre, its philosophy and methods, its affordances for journalists and audiences, and the ethical challenges faced by journalists working in that genre.

Submission notes: Full Harvard in-text referencing with a separate reference list

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Portfolio

Start date: 08/06/2021 09:00 AM

Details:

submissions (selected pre-class and in-class submissions) approx. 1500 words. This is the last assessment for this course. Feedback given via LMS.

Additional details:

Students will be marked on the quality and volume of their contributions to the class discussion forum and in class participation exercises. Submission will consist of the individual student's forum contributions collated into a single WORD DOC.

Submission notes: Forum contributions

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	Philosophers and Journalists At first glance, these two different disciplines appear to have little in common. But journalists and philosophers share a passion for describing and understanding what our world is, and what it could and should be. This week's lecture explores the history of journalism, stretching back to the Greek and Roman empires, and its philosophical underpinnings and asks why some scholars believe we need a philosophy--or philosophies--of journalism.
	Reading	Mitchell Stephens, *? Fgqrmpw md Lcuq8 dpm k rfc bps k rm rfc q_rcjjgrc* Martin Conboy* *Hmsp l_jgq k8 ? apgrga_j fgqrmpw* John C Merrill, *Jce_aw md Ugqbm k8 Epc_r rfg lecpq _lb Hmsp l_jgq k,* Carlin Romano, "We need 'Philosophy of Journalism'" *Rfc Afpm lgajc md Fgefcp Cbsa_rgm l,* Jean K. Chalaby, *Rfc Glt c lrgm l md Hmsp l_jgq k*
	Tutorial	IN CLASS DISCUSSION: What lessons does history teach us when it comes to understanding journalism today? ACTIVITY (ASSIGNMENT ONE PREP): Working with one partner student, access the list of philosophers in the Moodle Week 1 folder. Pick two philosophers and search online for information about their ideas. Can you identify aspects of their work that have direct or indirect relevance to journalism theory and practice?

Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	Theories of Journalism Journalism is a global phenomenon, but the practice of journalism is profoundly different in different parts of the world. This diversity of approaches has spawned multiple different theories regarding its purposes and methods. From authoritarian to libertarian models, and from social responsibity theory to the concept of a global public sphere, and Bourdieu's Field Theory.
	Tutorial	IN CLASS DISCUSSION: Where you live in the world makes a big difference to how you see the world, and for media, it's no different. What journalism is on one country, it is most definitely not in another country. What is journalism like where you live? How different or similar does it seem when compared with the journalism practiced in other placed you have been? ACTIVITY (HYPOTHETICAL/FOUR MEMBER GROUP EXERCISE): You are hired to devise a strategy to promote global journalism in your country. Prepare an action plan for your client.
	Reading	Siebert, Peterson and Schramm, *Dmsp Rfcmpgcq md rfc Npcqq* Rodney Benson, 'News Media as a "Journalistic Field": What Bourdieu adds to New Institutionalism, and vice versa' David M. Ryfe, *Hmspl_jgqk _lb rfc Ns`jga*  Flew, Iosidis and Steemers, *Ejm`_j Kcbg_ _lb L_rgmlj Nmjgagcq8 Rfc Pcrspl md rfc Qr_rc,* de Beer, and Merrill, *Ejm`_j Hmspl_jgqk8 Rmnga_j Gqqscq _lb Kcbg_ Qwqrckq* Raymond Williams, *@pgr_gl gl rfc Qgvrgcq8 Amk ksl ga_rgmlq* Mark Deuze, *Kcbg_ Umpi* Brian McNair, 'Journalism and Democracy' in *Rfc*

		F_ Ib`mmi md Hmsp l_jgq k Qrsbgcq David Berry, *Hmsp l_jgq k* * *Crfgaq _ Ib Qmagcrw* Michael Schudson, *Bgqamtcpgle rfc Lcuq*
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	Truth, Gatekeepers and the Fourth Estate By the mid-20th century, the dominant model for journalism in the West was the Fourth Estate.

		Qrsbgcq Rodney Benson, 'Bringing the Sociology of Media back In', *Nmjgrga_j Amkkslga_rgml* Barbie Zelizer, 'Sociology and Journalism' in *R_igle Hmspl_jgqk Qcpgmsqjw* Silvio Waisbord, (ed)

	Reading	Jay Rosen, 'The People Formerly Known as the Audience' in Michael Mandeberg, *Rfc Qmag_j Kcbg_ Pc_bcp,*

	Tutorial	IN CLASS DISCUSSION: Is Journalism a profession? What are your arguments for or against? ACTIVITY: Form groups of four students. Half the groups should argue for the proposition that "Rupert Murdoch is the greatest media proprietor of all time". The other half argue the propostion that "Rupert Murdoch is the worst media proprietor of all time".
	Reading	Mark Deuze, 'What is Journalism?' in *Hmspl_jgqk* (2005) Chris Atton, 'What is "alternative" journalism?' *Hmspl_jgqk* (2003) Andrew Leigh, *Rfc L_icb Rpsrf= Kcbg_ _lb Nmjgrgaq gl rfc Bgegr_j ?ec* (online) Kevin Rudd, 'Citizen Murdoch's critical grip on democracy' *Qwblcw Kmplgle Fcp_jb* 5 Jan 2019 Ronald Bishop, 'Critical Essays and Reviews: Robert W McChesney's *Pgaf Kcbg_* Nmmp Bckmap_aw* in *Hmspl_j md Amk ksl ga_rgml Glosgpw* Robert Stone, *R_`jmgb B_wq8 ?l _nnpclrgacqfgn gl rfc esrrcp* Philo, Hewitt, Beharrell and Davis, *Pc_jjw @_b Lcuq* Stuart Allan, 'Hidden in plain sight - journalism's critical issues' in *Hmspl_jgqk8 apgrga_j gqqscq* Richard Keeble, Journalism ethics: Towards an Orwellian critique?'in *Hmspl_jgqk8 apgrga_j gqqscq*
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Online Activity	Postgraduate Reading Week usually involves tonnes of reading. Not this year! Instead, you get to flex your philosophical muscles by connecting to the cutting edge Australian philosophy podcast *Rfc Kglcdgcjb,* Choose one or more of the following episodes and settle in. As you listen, take notes on what you found interesting and relevant to the

philosophies of journalism. Submit your brief report (300 words) with the Moodle link.

Was Twitter right to suspend Trump?

https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/theminefield/was-twitter-right-to-suspend-trump/13096910

minefield/was-twitter-right-to-suspend-

		Politics in Hard Times' in *Kcbg_ Glrcpl_rgml_j ?sqrp_jg_** Aug 2012 Geoffrey Baym, *Dpmk Apmligrc rm Amj`cpr8rfc ctmjsrgml md `pm_ba_qr lcuq* Barbie Zelizer, 'Introduction: Why Journalism's changing faces matter' in *Rfc Af_legle D_acq md Hmspl_jgqk8 r_`jmgbgx_rgml* rcaf lmjmew _lb rpsrfglcqq* Crawford, Hunter and Filipovic, *?jj wmsp dpgclbq jgic rfgq8 Fmu qmag_j lcrumpiq rmmi mtcp lcuq* Tom Goldstein* *Hmspl_jgqk _lb Rpsrf8 Qrp_lec @cbdcjjmuq* Christopher Kremmer, 'An Institute, society or college of journalists'. Conference Paper Arthur S. Hayes* *Npcqq Apgrgaq _pc rfc Dgdrf Cqr_rc*
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Avenging Angels: Return of the Journalism of Verification
	Tutorial	IN CLASS DISCUSSION: From postmodern muckrakers like Julian Assange, to Development journalism and Knowledge-Based Journalism, traditional 4th estate approaches are back in style. But is this the quiet before another new storm? Or is more and better journalism the answer?
	Reading	Thomas E. Patterson, *Gldmpkgle rfc Lcuq8 Rfc lccb dmp llmujcbec+`_qcb hmspl_jgqk*  *K_rrfcu Nmucpq* LEMq_q Lcuqk_icpq8 rfc Af_legle D_ac md Glrcpl_rgml_j Lcuq*  Silvio Waisbord, 'Advocacy Journalism in a Global Context in *Rfc F_lb`mmi md Hmspl_jgqk Qrsbgcq* Xu Xiaoge, 'Development Jounalism' in *Rfc F_lb`mmi md Hmspl_jgqk Qrsbgcq* Anderson, Dardenne and Killenberg, *Rfc Amltcpq_rgml md Hmspl_jgqk*
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	TBA
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	TBA

Resources

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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