

CMNS2280: Feature Writing

Singapore PSB

Trimester 2 - 2024 (Singapore)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	In this course students will explore the theory and practice of features journalism in print and online formats. Students will develop their research, interviewing, and writing skills by producing a variety of feature articles for publication in text and online forms.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Assumed Knowledge	CMNS1090 Media Storytelling
Contact Hours	Singapore PSB Lecture Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)
Unit Weighting Workload	10 Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Singapore PSB Ms Fann Xuan Ying Sim Fannxuanying.Sim@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: In class or by email
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences Social Sciences Building Callaghan CHSF-PSB-Singapore@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content Students will read and analyse published works of long-form and opinion-based journalism and produce their own articles in a virtual newsroom. Topics will include opinion writing, reviewing, interviewing techniques, news writing, story-telling, using images, online layout, using language, narrative techniques, pitching and freelance journalism.

Course Learning Outcomes **On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:**

1. Identify the role of journalism in society.
2. Apply professional writing and research skills to produce features journalism appropriate to print and online forms.
3. Critically reflect on their professional practice.

Course Materials Available on CANVAS

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	6 May	Introductory lecture: Feature Writing, assessment briefing		
2	13 May	What is a review? Conventions of writing a film review	In-class discussion and writing exercise	
3	20 May	Basics and journalism convention refresher	In-class discussion and writing exercise	
4	27 May	What is a profile article?	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Film review due in class
5	3 Jun	Interview basics: Drafting questions, etiquette, transcription and using quotes	Consultation regarding story ideas. One-to-one feedback for review assignment	
6	10 Jun	Photography basics and writing relevant captions	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Profile proposal due in class
Recess				
7	24 Jun	Different types of feature leads	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Upload revised film review in class
8	1 Jul	Different types of feature articles	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Profile due in class
9	8 Jul	Story ideas: Where do they come from?	Consultation regarding story ideas. One-to-one feedback for profile assignment	
10	15 Jul	Proofreading your work	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Feature proposal due in class
11	22 Jul	Subbing your work	In-class discussion and writing exercise	Upload revised profile article in class
12	29 Jul	In-class feedback on draft feature	Consultation regarding draft	Draft feature due in class

			feature	
13	5 Aug	Other types of feature articles	One-to-one feedback for draft feature	Feature due in class
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assessment 1 - Review	Week 4 – In Class Revised on Week 7 – In Class	Individual	25%	1, 2
2	Assessment 2 - Short News Feature	Proposal on Week 6 – In Class Profile article on Week 8 – In Class Revised profile article on Week 11 in class	Individual	25%	1, 2
3	Assessment 3 - Long-form Feature	Story idea proposal on Week 10 in Class Feature article draft on Week 12 in Class Completed Feature on Week 13 in class	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Assessment 1 - Review

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	You will write a 600-word review of a new release movie chosen by the course coordinator, with titles to be announced on CANVAS in week 3. The review will follow the conventions of film reviewing (discussed in class in W3) for your chosen publication. During tutorial in Week 7 you will upload your revised film review.
Weighting	25%
Length	600 word
Due Date	Week 4 – In Class
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 2 - Assessment 2 - Short News Feature

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	You will write an 800-1000-word profile of an individual who is newsworthy. You will choose the subject of your profile in consultation with your tutor. The final draft of the profile must include research notes that show how you gathered the information about your subject. The profile will be written according to the conventions of profile writing, which will be discussed in class. You will include a photograph you have taken of your subject, appropriate to the theme of the article. This assessment is in stages.
Weighting	25%
Length	800 – 1000 word
Due Date	Week 6 – In Class
Submission Method	Online

Assessment Criteria	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

Assessment 3 - Assessment 3 - Long-form Feature

Assessment Type	Professional Task
Description	The entire word count for this assessment task will be between 1500 and 2100 words. This will be broken down into a proposal (up to 400); a story (up to 1500) and a reflection statement of 200 words. The subject of your feature will be decided on in consultation with your tutor. This task will roll out in a series of assessable stages.
Weighting	50%
Length	1500 – 2100 word
Due Date	Week 13 in class
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online
Opportunity to Reattempt	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential

improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas) As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

Adverse Circumstances The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:
<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

Important Policy Information The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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