

## CMNS2320: News Media

Singapore PSB

Trimester 2 - 2024 (Singapore)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	Digital disruption has transformed news media and consequently change in the industry is constant. This course will introduce students to how news media operates and will develop analytical, research, interviewing, production, multimedia and writing skills relevant to multi-platform journalism in a dynamic media environment. Course content will contextualise and analyse news media through a lens that explores cultural, historical, political and economic perspectives.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Requisites</b>	If you have successfully completed CMNS1280, you cannot enrol in this course.
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	CMNS1090 Media Storytelling
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Singapore PSB</b> <b>Lecture</b> Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)  <b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)
<b>Unit Weighting Workload</b>	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

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# 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**  
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# SYLLABUS

**Course Content**             Topic will include:

- reporting across platforms
- convergence
- regulation
- law and ethics
- audiences
- data journalism
- innovation
- entrepreneurial approaches
- social media
- public relations and journalism relationships
- Indigenous affairs, religion and sport reporting

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

1. Describe and analyse the role of news media in society;
2. Apply news reporting skills for text-based and multiplatform publications in practical presentations;
3. Critique the skills and practices of professional journalism.

**Course Materials**             Refer to Materials on Course Site

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	6 May	Life in the Fast Lane. The News Media in 2020.	Introductory lecture.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz One. Watch: <i>Page One: Inside the New York Times</i> on Kanopy through the UON library.
2	13 May	Journalism: The First Draft of History.	Lecture. Tutorial: Quiz One. Organise topic champions. Choose odds or evens for BB posts. Discuss film.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz Two. Prepare for class discussion on the evolution of Journalism and its role in society.
3	20 May	Digital Disruption and Media Convergence.	Lecture. Tutorial: Quiz Two. First topic champions: Explore the evolution of Journalism and its role in society.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz Three. Prepare for class discussion on the impact of technology on Journalism.
4	27 May	What is News?	Lecture. Tutorial: Quiz Three. Topic champions: Consider the impact of technology on how journalism is produced and consumed.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz Four. Prepare for class discussion on what is news. Prepare for slideshow and news story idea pitch.
5	3 Jun	The art of research: interviewing, data mining, sources, and leads.	Lecture. Quiz Four. Topic champions: What is news?	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz Five. Work on story idea pitch.
6	10 Jun	Journalism and the Law.	Lecture. Quiz Five. Interview and writing workshop. Story pitches.	<b>Due: Story idea pitch in class.</b> <b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for Quiz Six. Prepare for class discussion on Journalism and the Law.
<b>Recess</b>				
7	24 Jun	Regulating the Media.	Lecture. Quiz Six. Topic champions: What are the laws in Singapore that people working in the media must be aware of?	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Start working on your slide show. Prepare for class discussion on regulating the media.
8	1 Jul	Ethical Journalism and how to apply it.	Lecture. Topic champions: When it comes to the media, what is the most appropriate: government regulation or self-regulation?	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for discussion of Ethical Practice in the News Media. <b>Slideshow due</b>
9	8 Jul	Guest Lecture: TBA	Lecture. Topic Champions: Ethical practice in reporting the news.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for class discussion on reporting on sensitive topics and minorities or disadvantaged groups.
10	15 Jul	PR and Journalism.	Lecture.	<b>Homework for next</b>

			Topic Champions: reporting on religion, gender, LGBTQI, mental health, disability.	<b>week:</b> Prepare for class discussion on PR and Journalism: Strange Bedfellows.
11	22 Jul	Satire and Journalism.	Lecture. Topic champions: PR and Journalism: Strange Bedfellows.	<b>Homework for next week:</b> Prepare for class discussion on satire, fake news and living in a post-truth world. <b>First draft of news story due online</b>
12	29 Jul	The Future of Journalism.	Lecture. Topic champions: Satire, fake news and living in a post-truth world. In-class feedback on news stories.	<b>Final draft of news story due online</b>
13	5 Aug			
<b>Examination Period</b>				
<b>Examination Period</b>				

## 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	In Class Quiz	Ongoing in class, from Week 2 to Week 7	Individual	20%	1
2	Topic Champion and Journal	Five online deadlines, from Week 3 to Week 12 in class	Individual	30%	1, 3
3	News Story Slideshow	Idea Pitch - Week 6 in class Slideshow - Week 8 in class News story - Week 11 & Week 12 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 - In Class Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Description</b>	Students will answer questions on current news stories, general knowledge questions and questions on course content delivered in lectures.
<b>Weighting</b>	20%
<b>Length</b>	5 x 10 mins
<b>Due Date</b>	Week 2 to Week 7 in class
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

### Assessment 2 - Topic Champion and Journal

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Journal
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<b>Description</b>	Students will be topic champions for one tutorial each, preparing a five-minute presentation on the topic of the previous week's lecture and leading the class discussion. All students will write five Blackboard posts across the trimester, reflecting on the weekly topic and class discussion.
<b>Weighting</b>	30%
<b>Length</b>	5 x 450 – 600 word
<b>Due Date</b>	Week 3 to Week 12 in class
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment.

### Assessment 3 - News Story Slideshow

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Professional Task
<b>Description</b>	Each student will research and produce a slideshow and news feature on the same topic suitable for publication on the national student website The Junction. This task will include a social media component and will have staggered deadlines.
<b>Weighting</b>	50%
<b>Length</b>	800 word
<b>Due Date</b>	Short pitch on story idea due in class in week 6 in class Slideshow due online in Week 8 in class News story first draft due online in Week 11. News story final due online in Week 12 in class
<b>Submission Method</b>	In Class, Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	Refer to Rubrics on Course Site
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	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).

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<b>Communication Methods</b>	Communication methods used in this course include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.</li><li>- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account, students are advised to check their emails each week.</li><li>- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face-to-face meetings or supervision.</li></ul>
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	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 <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a> . 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 <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a> .
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	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 <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a> .
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>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;</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	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 <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures</a> 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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