

# MDIA 412 International News Media

**Trimester 2 2014**

14 July to 16 November 2014

**30 Points**

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-Trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2014

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Wednesdays                      2.00-4.50pm                      81 Fairlie Terrace FT81 103

## NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Douglas A. Van Belle

Email: [doug.vanbelle@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:doug.vanbelle@vuw.ac.nz)

Phone: 04 463 7447

Office: FT83 307

Office Hours: TBC

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard will be used as a bulletin board to post announcements and material relevant to the course.

Lecture notes **WILL NOT** be posted on Blackboard.

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**

This course introduces students to the theories and findings from the primary areas of academic research related to the international news media. This is a research-oriented course.

## **COURSE CONTENT**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the theories and findings from the primary areas of academic research related to the international news media. Students will develop an understanding of the general state of knowledge in this area of study. They will develop their ability to read, critique and utilise current research in the field and they will develop the first stage of an in-depth understanding of a topical area of study within the field.

## **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1) Read, deconstruct and assess academic research on this subject.
- 2) Identify and analyse connections between academic research publications as they fit within a larger body of knowledge.
- 3) Suggest ways in which future research might be fruitfully conducted from the foundation of the existing body of knowledge.
- 4) Utilise library, database and published resources to find readings appropriate to the subject of study.
- 5) Demonstrate comprehension of the general state of knowledge in the study of international news media.

## **TEACHING FORMAT**

This is a seminar course that requires the active participation of the students in the classroom.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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

1. Complete Critical Review Essay
2. Complete Research Prospectus
3. Submit at least 7 Class Participation notes
4. Complete Readings Selections Notes

## **WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Critical Review Essay (3,000-3,500 words)	40%	2, 3, 4	2PM, Monday 18 August
2	Research Prospectus (3,000-3,500 words)	40%	2, 4, 5	2PM, Friday 31 October
3	Class Participation	10%	1	Weekly during seminar
4	Readings Selections Notes (2-4 page written discussion)	10%	1	Second half of trimester, dates vary.

**Critical Review Essay due Monday 18 August 2014, 2PM**

The critical review essay is one of the primary written assignments for the course and will be turned in before 2PM. The expectation is that the student will examine research publications in an area of study and then write an essay that moves one intellectual step beyond summarising. The student is expected to demonstrate a critical analytical examination of the material. This assignment will require the student to conduct a significant quantity of self-directed reading and library work and students should begin early in order to insure that they can obtain interlibrary loan material in a timely fashion. The assigned length for this assignment is 3,000-3,500 words. However, because the written length of work can vary tremendously in relation to the predominant methodologies of the research being examined, a better rule of thumb is that the student is expected to spend the better part of 2 weeks working on this project, roughly 20-25 hours.

The use of the following writing guide is recommended:

[www.cqpress.com/docs/college/VanBelle\\_WritingAppendix.pdf](http://www.cqpress.com/docs/college/VanBelle_WritingAppendix.pdf)

Students are also expected to use a standard style guide for formatting references and footnotes.

This assessment focuses primarily on learning objectives 2, 3 and 4.

**Research Prospectus due Friday 31 October 2014, 2PM**

The research prospectus is intended to build upon the critical review essay. However, students who are unhappy with their critical review essay may opt to undertake the additional work of creating a new literature review. Other than the extra work, there is no penalty in switching topics. This essay will detail an argument addressing the “where next?” question in regards to and area of research inquiry. Students considering moving on to Master’s in Media Studies are encouraged to put this argument in the form of a detailed research proposal which could be combined with an edited version of the critical review essay to create a document that could easily serve as a proposal for a Master’s thesis. Other options can include more general arguments about where this field of research should move, what other fields of study could

benefit by engaging this field of study in a specific way, or any other argument that tackles a what next question. The assigned length for this assignment is 3,000-3,500 words. However, because the written length of work can vary tremendously in relation to the predominant methodologies of the research being examined, a better rule of thumb is that the student is expected to spend the better part of 3 weeks working on this project, roughly 30-35 hours.

### **Participation**

Student participation in the classroom will be assessed. A key part of this assessment will be the weekly preparation notes. These are notes, questions and discussion points distilled from the readings. They are meant to facilitate discussion and must be completed before each seminar meeting. Two copies should be brought to the seminar, one to be turned in at the start of the seminar and one for the student to use during the discussion. At least 7 out of 10 of these must be completed to complete this assessment. This assessment primarily addresses learning objective 1.

### **Readings Selection Notes**

Developing the skills to explore a subject and find readings of significance is a point of emphasis in this course. In the second half of the trimester, every student will select a portion of the readings for a seminar meeting. Students are expected to find and select one or two key readings from subject area related to their critical review essay. These will then be assigned as reading for the whole class and used as the focus of discussion for one half of a seminar. The student selecting the readings will also provide to the class a bibliography of related readings. This will be turned in to the instructor along with a 2-4 page written discussion of the logic of exploration, selection and rejection of possible readings and relate that to the subject, the starting point (if one was offered by the instructor) and the student's interests.

### **Additional notes on written assignments**

Always keep a copy of the finished essay, project or workshop assignment. It is your responsibility to submit the assignment on time, and in the event of loss, regardless of fault, it is in your best interest to be able to immediately make a new copy available.

All text should be printed and double-spaced unless otherwise instructed. The lecturer prefers 12-point Times Roman or similar serif font for the main essay text and a 10-point font for footnote/endnote details. Assignments must be stapled and each page numbered. Do not use plastic covers or binders. A stack of essays in plastic covers exhibits many of the same qualities as a stack of live fish.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

The critical review essay and the research prospectus should be submitted in the MDIA drop slot outside the administration office: **83 Fairlie Terrace**. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Please email the critical review essay and the research prospectus on time, each as a separate MS Word file to [media-studies@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:media-studies@vuw.ac.nz)

Other brief written exercises should be submitted directly to the course coordinator in class.

Your marked assignment will be handed back during class. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification

### EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

#### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 7 November 2014.**

#### 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

Readings will be made available electronically and on closed reserve.

### RECOMMENDED READING

MDIA 412 ancillary readings: **All ancillary readings are required** and all are available free of charge to students, on-line through the Victoria library.

Students are also pursue a significant amount of independently-selected reading material and should be aware that costs may be associated with obtaining books or articles through interlibrary loan.

## 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

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)

- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

## COURSE PROGRAMME

Since the students will be, with guidance, selecting most of the readings for our seminar discussions, there is no weekly schedule of readings.

Week 1	16 July	Topic Areas and Guidance on reading selection strategies.
Week 2	23 July	TBC
Week 3	30 July	TBC
Week 4	6 Aug	TBC
Week 5	13 Aug	TBC
Week 6	20 Aug	TBC
<b>Mid Trimester Break:</b> Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014		
Week 7	10 Sept	TBC
Week 8	17 Sept	TBC
Week 9	24 Sept	TBC
Week 10	1 Oct	TBC
Week 11	8 Oct	TBC
Week 12	15 Oct	TBC