

**Journalism in Context MC7 1121A**  
**Monday morning 10 am Screen 1 (MRB)**

**Introduction to Area of Study**

You will be introduced to the major theoretical debates in the study of journalism. We will cover: the current crisis in journalism, questions of political power and the public sphere; ownership forms and how they are changing; the role of audience: as well as regulation and representation. We will also look at journalism as a narrative form. All these debates will be situated firmly in a current and practical context and you will be encouraged to make connections between formal lectures, seminar presentations and practical discussions of the day's events and how they are reported. Sessions will usually be 1 hour followed by a seminar of 1 hour but may be extended if there are special events or speakers. This course will provide you with a theoretical underpinning for your work, which you will develop via personal study later in the year.

**Learning Outcomes**

**After completing this course you should be able to:**

- Apply conceptual knowledge in order to research and write about the field of journalism.
- Understand the relationship of journalism to the media industry and how it can be conceptualised theoretically.
- Understand and evaluate issues concerned with audience and with political and commercial power.
- Understand how journalism techniques are used to represent and reflect society.
- Apply your knowledge and understanding to a critique of your own and other work.
- Understand the various ways in which journalism is funded and apply your knowledge to a practical project.

**Learning Methods**

**You will attend a series of ten lectures and seminars in which discussion is encouraged.**

**Assessment**, You are required to submit a 4-7000 word essay related to issues of journalism in late August or September (see information on hand-in dates) or a 4-7000 report on a business strategy which you have planned and executed over the year.

**Practice Essay Marking Criteria**

The marking criteria for theory essays are, in general:

- the extent to which the course learning outcomes have been achieved
- the originality, ambition, scope and relevance of the essay/project in terms of the topic being addressed
- the structure and form of the essay.
- the presentation of the essay in terms of attention to clarity of expression, clear print/handwriting, spelling and punctuation.

**Postgraduate Essay Marking Guidelines**

**Distinction:** A mark of 70%-79% is awarded when the essay demonstrates *the very effective application* of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the course. The outstanding work will show evidence of extensive relevant reading and an impressive grasp of current major issues in the field. This knowledge will have been reviewed critically with insight and independence of thought. Arguments and the presentation of evidence will demonstrate sophisticated reasoning, with clear awareness of issues of methodology and evidence, and be particularly clear, well focused and cogent.

A mark of 80% or higher is awarded when a candidate satisfies the requirements for a distinction, but to an outstanding degree. Such work may be of publishable quality, and will be a significant contribution to debate within the field.

**Pass:** A mark of 60-69% is awarded when candidates demonstrate *the effective application* of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the course learning outcomes. The essay will show consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating evidence and theories drawn from a wide range of sources. They will demonstrate an ability to relate this reading to their topic, and will clearly have understood and assimilated the relevant literature.

A mark of 50-59% is awarded when the essay demonstrates *the satisfactory application* of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the learning outcomes of the course. There is clear evidence of knowledge and understanding, but where there may be limited development of ideas, critical comment or methodology. Within these limitations there will be indication that the candidate has grasped fundamental concepts and procedures in the field.

**Fail:** A mark below 50% indicates that a candidate has demonstrated *an unsatisfactory application* of appropriate knowledge, understandings and skills specified in the production courses learning outcomes.

## Lecture 1 What is news?

What is this thing called news? Is it a commodity? If so how can we describe it? If not then what is it and how do we recognise it? Is it a question of subject matter or simply of timing? Can anything 'new' be news?

This lecture will look at studies of news and attempt a useful working definition.

Reading:

\*Harcup Tony and Dierdre O' Neill (2001) "What is News? Galtung and Ruge Revisited"  
Journalism Studies Vol2 (2) pg 261-280.

Further reading

Galtung, J and Ruge, M.H. (1965) The Structure of Foreign News, Journal of Research  
Vol2 (1) 64-91

McQuail, Dennis (1994) "Mass Communication Theory" Sage Publications: London.

Tunstall Jeremy Journalists at work, specialist correspondents: their news  
organizations, news sources, and competitor-colleagues California : Sage Publications,  
1971.

Terhi Rantanen, (2009) *When News was New* Wiley-Blackwell (Chapter 1)

## **Lecture 2 Interesting to the public or in the interests of the public: what is news for?**

News has a dual role: it both a means by which people and institutions can tell us the things they want us to know (or the things they think we should know) and also a means by which we find out about the things that amuse, interest, scare or amaze us.

We will look at theories of the public sphere and the role of news in a democracy and ask whether the requirements of democracy are being served by today's news media and whether the news media should be serving them?

### Reading

\* Habermas, J (1973) *The Public Sphere*, in Marris P and Thornton S eds (1999) Media Studies a reader, Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh Press.

Curran, James, Shanto Iyengar, Anker Brink Lund and Inka Salovaara-Moring, *Media System, public knowledge and democracy: a comparative study* in James Curran (2011) *Meia and Democracy*, Routledge

Fraser N (1997) *Rethinking The Public Sphere: A Contribution to the critique of Actually Existing Democracy* in Calhoun C, *Habermas and The Public Sphere*, London MIT Press.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/466240?seq=1>

Hindman, Matthew, (2009) *The Myth of Digital Democracy*, Princeton University Press, Princeton

Dahlgren, Peter and Colin Sparks, *Journalism and Popular Culture*, Sage 1992 (Chapters 1 and 2)  
Curran, J (1991), *Mass Media and Democracy: a re-appraisal* in Curran, J and Gurevitch, M ed, *Mass Media and Society* Edward Arnold.

Council of Europe (2009). 'Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on the role of community media in promoting social cohesion and intercultural dialogue'.  
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1409919>

Digital Britain (2009). 'Final Report.' *Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)*.

[http://www.dcms.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx](http://www.dcms.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx)

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications (2008a). 'The ownership of the news. Vol I: Report'. Norwich: The Stationery Office Limited. Available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldcomuni/122/122i.pdf>

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications (2008b). 'The ownership of the news. Vol II: Evidence.' Norwich: The Stationery Office Limited.

Engel Mathew, (1996) Tickle The Public, London, Victor Gollancz

### Lecture 3 The Meaning of Words

How do we choose and use words? How do we structure reports? We will look at language and discourse theories as they relate to news and think about how we filter and shape the things we say and write through the lens of our own experience.

Hall, S (1997) "The Work of Representation" Pp 13-75 Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices, London Sage

Bourdieu, Pierre (1991) Language and Symbolic Power, Cambridge, Polity Press

Coleman, Renita, Maxwell McCombs, Donald Shaw and David Weaver (2009) Agenda Setting, in Karin Wahl-Jorgensen and Thomas Hanitzsch, The Handbook of Journalism Studies Routledge

Entman, M. Robert, Jorg Matthies and Lynn Pellicano (2009) Nature Sources and Effects of News Framing, in Karin Wahl-Jorgensen and Thomas Hanitzsch, The Handbook of Journalism Studies Routledge

Hall Stuart (1994) Cultural Identity and Diaspora in Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman eds Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory, New York, Columbia University Press.

Said, Edward W. (1995) [1978]: Orientalism. London: Penguin

Sontag, Susan. (1989) AIDS and Its Metaphors. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York:

McGregor, Susan.M. Fountaine Judy M Reconstructing Gender for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:News Media Framing of Political Women in New Zealand

<http://webenrol.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Colleges/College%20of%20Business/NZCWL/pdfs/JMcGregorSFountainePaper.pdf>.

### Lecture 4 The Meaning of Pictures

How do we choose images? How to we frame them? How do we sequence them?

Pictures don't just tell the objective story, but reveal the subjective

perspective of the news gatherer's eye. News coverage of dissidence, from the 1984 Miners' strike to the 2009 G20 protests, challenges assumptions of impartiality; UGC footage can convey an alternative truth; and even objective images of disadvantage and poverty can reinforce social exclusion.

Reading:

Berry, Mike and Philo, Greg (2006) Israel and Palestine: Competing histories Cambridge: Pluto

Chomsky, Noam (2002) Media Control: The Spectacular Achievements of Propaganda, NY: Seven Stories Press

van Dijch, Bernadette, (2002) Screening Gender Gender Portrayal And Programme Making

Routines[<http://66.102.1.104/scholar?q=cache:KamdAPIXIJ8J:scholar.google.com/+female+politician+representation+media&hl=en>]

Kaldor, Kumar et al (2009) Global Civil Society 2009: Poverty and Activism, London: Sage

Milne, Seumas (2004) The Enemy Within: Thatcher's Secret War Against the Miners, London: Verso

## Lecture 5 Who Makes News: journalists and their sources

Who makes news and where do they come from? We touched on this issue in the first lecture and we return to it because of its central importance. The people we talk to, listen to, give a platform to help to create our sense of what is news. Those who are invisible and unheard cannot contribute to debate or help shape the narrative of our society.

Manning, P (2001) News and News Sources: A critical introduction, London, Sage.

Phillips Angela (2009) Old Sources: New Bottles in Fenton, N ed New Media Old News, Sage 2009

Phillips Angela (2008) Who Speaks, Eide, E, Kunelius R, Phillips, A The Muhammed Cartoons Controversy,

Phillips Angela (2008) Ourselves and Our Others, The Muhammed Cartoons Controversy, Nordicom, forthcoming

Golding and Elliott (1997) News Values and Production pp 632-639 in Marris and Thornton, Media Studies :A Reader, Edinburgh University Press

Hall, S et al The Social Production of News, pp 645 - 651 in Marris and Thornton, Media Studies :A Reader, Edinburgh University Press

Schudson M, (2000) The Sociology of News Production Revisited (Again), in Curren and Gurevitch eds Mass Media and Society, Arnold

Keeble. R, Sourcing The news in The Newspapers Handbook

NO LECTURE ON WEEK SIX (PRESS CONFERENCE INSTEAD)

## Lecture 6 Who owns the news?

### Ownership control and the power of the news media

**“This is the one moment in our lives to do something about the concentration of media ownership’ Chris Mullen MP, Today Programme 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.**

Does it matter who owns news outlets? Is public ownership better than private ownership in the production of news? We will discuss the impact of media ownership on the workings of democracy.

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications (2008a). ‘The ownership of the news. Vol I: Report’. Norwich: The Stationery Office Limited. Available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldcomuni/122/122i.pdf>

House of Lords Select Committee on Communications (2008b). ‘The ownership of the news. Vol II: Evidence.’ Norwich: The Stationery Office Limited.

Curran, James, and Jean Seaton, Power Without Responsibility, Routledge

## Lecture 7: Changing News Models and Democracy

Has the proliferation of new entrants changed the balance of power?

Hindman, Matthew, (2009) The Myth of Digital Democracy, Princeton University Press, Princeton

Charlie Beckett (2008) *Supermedia: Saving Journalism so that it can save the world*. Blackwell  
Jeff Jarvis (2009) *What would Google Do?* Harper Collins  
Tamara Witschge (2011) *Changing Audiences Changing Journalism in, Changing Journalism* ,  
Routledge  
Robinson, Sue: *The Institutionalisation of Online News Journalism Practice* vol 1 no 3 p 305-321  
Deuze Mark: *Preparing for an age of participatory news*. (ibid) P 322

### **Lecture 8 The Future of the News Business.**

The business of news is changing very fast across the world. We look at the ways in which business and government are trying to make sense of the changes (with particular reference to the UK).

Auletta, K. (2009) *Googled: The end of the world as we know It*, New York: Penguin  
Phillips Angela and Tamara Witschge (2011) *The Changing Business of News: sustainability of news journalism in Changing Journalism*, Routledge.  
Silver James, (30 June 2009) *Can Rupert Murdoch save online news?* Wired Magazine  
<http://www.wired.co.uk/wired-magazine/archive/2009/08/start/can-murdoch-save-online-news.aspx>  
Bourdieu, Pierre, (1998) *On Television and Journalism*, London, Pluto Press  
Herman Edward and McChesney Robert (1997) *The Global Media* , New York Cassell.  
Curran, J (2002) *Media and Power* Routledge (in particular Part 1)  
Curran, J (1997) *The Impact of Advertising on the British Mass Media* in Marris and Thornton *ibid*  
Sreberny A (2000) *The Global and The Local in International Communications*’ in *Mass Media and Society*, Arnold  
Parry Roger (2009) *Creating Viable Local Multi-Media Companies in the UK* (a consultation document from the shadow minister for Culture)  
Tamara Witschge, Natalie Fenton Des Freedman (2009) *Carnegie UK Inquiry into Civil Society and the Media UK and Ireland: Media Ownership*  
Carvajal, M., & Avilés, J.A.G. (2008). *From newspapers to multimedia groups: Business growth strategies of the regional press in Spain*. *Journalism Practice* 2 (3): 453-462.

### **Lecture 9 VISITOR \_ SOCIAL MEDIA**

#### **Lecture 10: Future journalism and the ethics of news.**

Today we will finish our lecture series with a discussion about ethics in the changing context of news:

Phillips Angela (2011) *Transparency and the Ethics of New Journalism*, in *Changing Journalism* *ibid*

Phillips Angela, Nicky Couldry, Des Freedman (2009) *An Ethical Deficit: Accountability, Norms and the Material Conditions of Contemporary Journalism* in Fenton, N ed *New Media Old News* Sage forthcoming

Phillips Angela (2009) Transparency and the new ethics of journalism, paper for Future of Journalism Conference, Cardiff 2009

Singer Jane B. (2007) Contested Autonomy: Professional and popular claims on journalistic norms *Journalism Studies*, 1469-9699, Volume 8, Issue 1, 2007, Pages 79 – 95

Project for Excellence in Journalism, May 29, 2007 Developing Methods of Verification, Committee of concerned Journalists <http://www.concernedjournalists.org/developing-methods-verification>

Benson, Rodney and Eric Neveu 2005 *Bourdieu and the Journalistic Field*, Cambridge Polity

Angela Phillips (2009) *Old Sources: New Bottles*, Natalie Fenton ed. *New Media:Old News* Sage

Angela Phillips, Jane B Singer Tudor Vlad and Leo Becker (2009) Implications of Technological Change for Journalists Tasks and Skills, *Journal of Media Business Studies*, Jönköping