

Course Guides Part A: Course Overview

(Note only Part A of the Course Guides are attached to Program Guides.)

Course Title: Media and Communication Futures

College	<i>Design and Social Context</i>
School	<i>Media and Communication</i>
Course Identification and Title	<i>Media and Communication Futures</i>
Career	Undergraduate
Credit Points	12
Pre-requisite/co-requisite courses	None
Course Description and learning outcomes and objectives	<p>This is a core course for all Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) students in the School of Media and Communication.</p> <p>The course is designed to focus on the socially embedded and materially embodied ways in which people use media and communication technologies. This course assists you to locate your uses of media and communication within an interdisciplinary context, as you explore what these technologies are, how they have been and are being assembled, and how they are and have been of consequence.</p> <p>In the course you investigate the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have people understood, planned and used media and communication technologies? • What possible planning, applications and uses of these technologies are being negotiated and/or struggled over? • What social, cultural, political and economic consequences have these uses and strategies involved, and what might they involve? • What pathways and limits, as well as generative models and opportunities, link past, present, and future applications and uses of media and communication technologies? How are 'older' media and communication technologies bound up with struggles around the digital revolution and with future possibilities?
Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development	<p>Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research and analyse how media and communication technologies are used and assembled; • discuss the social, cultural, political and economic influences on the uses and applications of media and communication technologies; • compare and contrast past and present practices in the applications of these technologies, and argue the consequences of a range of practices; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate emerging and predicted disciplinary and interdisciplinary practices in the applications of these technologies and interpret the implications for research in your field. <p>You will develop the following program capabilities in this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply research skills and practices to address complex problems; work collaboratively and ethically in interdisciplinary teams; and evaluate the strengths and contributions of your own discipline and the value of other disciplines to research.
Overview of Learning Activities	This course will involve a mix of large and mixed group activities that include the discussion, analysis and testing of arguments and examples, sharing and critique of research discoveries, the ongoing documentation of your learning, and class presentations.
Overview of Learning Resources	A list of recommended resources will be provided by the lecturer, and will include books, essays, articles, and web resources. You will be expected to find additional resources that are relevant to your own focus, with an emphasis on utilising the research tools available via the library.
Overview of Assessment	Your grasp of course arguments, interdisciplinary knowledge of media and communication technologies, and ability to relate this to your disciplinary field of practice will be assessed through a mix of formative and summative tasks. Tasks may include developed pieces of writing and presentations, individual and group work, and may involve negotiation of topics with the lecturer to enable connection to the concerns of your disciplinary field of practice.
Course Coordinator Details	

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Research Laboratory One Part A: Course Overview

College	<i>Design and Social Context</i>
School	<i>Media and Communication</i>
Course Title (30 including spaces)	<i>Research Laboratory One</i>
Career	Undergraduate
Credit Points	<i>12</i>
Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities	None
Course Description	<p>The Research Laboratory is undertaken by all students in the Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) program and forms the key to the research training and outcomes for your honours project. The Research Laboratory will provide the academic context and theme for your individual honours research project.</p> <p>The laboratory is an interdisciplinary project space where all participants will investigate a common topic or theme, under the direction of a research leader. Specific research themes will vary from year to year, reflecting current projects, industry partnerships and university research directions.</p> <p>You will develop your knowledge and expertise in relation to the laboratory theme, combining specific domain knowledge with contextual investigations into how the theme relates to your own discipline and practice. The themes will be general enough to provide engagement for your disciplinary area, and specific enough to provide a pathway and focus for your research.</p>
Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development	<p>Upon the successful completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and critique key theoretical positions in relation to your research; • discuss key literature in the field; and • explore significant problems in relation to your discipline. <p>The following program capabilities are developed in this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creatively and critically develop meaningful problems

	<p>within media and communication;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work collaboratively and ethically in interdisciplinary teams; • develop deep knowledge of your field and its relevance to contemporary media and communication; • use research as an integral part of your creative and critical reflective practice; • demonstrate leadership through developing projects and collaborative processes; and • evaluate the strengths and contributions of your own discipline and the value of other disciplines to research.
Overview of Learning Activities	The laboratory will consist of a small cohort facilitated by a research leader (lecturer). Your learning will involve a range of activities including readings, class discussion, research, collaborative and individual projects, and documentation, and the preliminary planning of a major research project. You will be expected to document your learning in an ongoing manner through the laboratory.
Overview of Learning Resources	A list of recommended resources will be provided by the research leader, including books, essays, journal articles, and web resources. In addition you will be expected to find additional resources, with an emphasis on using the research tools available via the library.
Overview of Assessment	Assessment will include a mix of formative and summative activities. Each laboratory will produce a variety of outcomes relevant to its theme. Assessment activities may include reports, assignments, projects, presentations, individual and group work.
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Research Laboratory Two Part A: Course Overview

College	<i>Design and Social Context</i>
School	<i>Media and Communication</i>
Course Title (30 including spaces)	<i>Research Laboratory Two</i>
Career	Undergraduate
Credit Points	24
Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities	Research Laboratory One and Research Strategies.
Course Description	<p>The Research Laboratory is undertaken by all students in the Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) program and contributes to the research training and outcomes for your honours project. The Research Laboratory will provide the academic context and theme for your individual honours research project.</p> <p>Research Laboratory Two continues from Research Laboratory One. It is an interdisciplinary space where you develop specific, high quality research outcomes that are relevant to the theme of the laboratory.</p> <p>You will concentrate on your research outcomes, which will form the basis of your examinable honours work. Through the Research Laboratory you will receive feedback and critique of your research project. You will also utilise the content knowledge developed in Research Laboratory One, in the context of discipline and practice relevant outcomes for your research project.</p>
Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development	<p>Upon the successful completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain research as a complex set of practices in disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts; • identify and critique key issues within your disciplinary field, and compare to the experience in other disciplines; • investigate a discipline specific problem, and articulate your analysis in writing; and • reflect upon your research in terms of contemporary media and communication theory and practice, as well as collaborative processes and outcomes.

	<p>The following program capabilities are developed in this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creatively and critically develop meaningful problems within media and communication; • apply research skills and practices to address complex problems; • work collaboratively and ethically in interdisciplinary teams; • develop deep knowledge of your field and its relevance to contemporary media and communication; • use research as an integral part of your creative and critical reflective practice; • demonstrate leadership through developing projects and collaborative processes; • evaluate the strengths and contributions of your own discipline and the value of other disciplines to research; • undertake sophisticated, self directed research; and • explain why your research matters and to whom, and express your research in relevant ways.
<p>Overview of Learning Activities</p>	<p>The laboratory will be facilitated by a research leader (lecturer). Your learning will involve a range of activities, including oral presentations, readings, class discussion, presentation and critique of work in progress, and the completion of a major research project. You will also document your research practice throughout the semester.</p>
<p>Overview of Learning Resources</p>	<p>A variety of resources will be provided by the research leader, including essays, journal articles and web resources. Resources related to academic writing, citation, and publication requirements will be provided, together with project management resources to facilitate project development and completion.</p>
<p>Overview of Assessment</p>	<p>Assessment will be formative throughout the semester. Activities may include a variety of presentations of your research in progress such as videos, posters, reports, or class presentations.</p>
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Research Practice One Part A: Course Overview

College	<i>Design and Social Context</i>
School	<i>Media and Communication</i>
Course Title (30 including spaces)	<i>Research Practice One</i>
Career	Undergraduate
Credit Points	12
Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities	None
Course Description	Research Practice One is a required course for all students in the Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) program. In this course you will undertake self directed research and study that is directly related to your honours research project as preparation for Research Practice Two, in which you will finalise your research project.
Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development	<p>Upon the successful completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify key questions, debates and concerns in your discipline in the context of a research project; • explore a range of applied research activities relevant to a research project; and • undertake independent research in an area of media and communication. <p>The following program capabilities are developed in this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply research skills and practices to address complex problems; • develop deep knowledge of your field and its relevance to contemporary media and communication; • undertake sophisticated, self directed research; and • explain why your research matters and to whom, and express your research in relevant ways.
Overview of Learning Activities	The key activities you will undertake are different forms of research, using library resources to gather relevant material, viewing other relevant works and projects, and reading the key

	literature that is related to your individual project. The main activities will be finding references and resources; reading, viewing or listening to them; compiling notes; and maintaining a bibliography.
Overview of Learning Resources	The key resources you will use are in the University library (and other research libraries), and other collecting institutions that may contain material relevant to your project (other libraries, galleries, archives). In addition, you will utilise some form of bibliographic management tool, and a variety of online resources to document and store your research activities, including a research blog, citation manager, and a social bookmarking service.
Overview of Assessment	This course is research only and is assessed on a pass/fail basis. Assessment will be determined by a progress report completed by an academic in consultation with you. Please see Part B for details.
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Research Practice Two Part A: Course Overview

College	<i>Design and Social Context</i>
School	<i>Media and Communication</i>
Course Title (30 including spaces)	<i>Research Practice Two</i>
Career	Undergraduate
Credit Points	<i>24</i>
Pre-requisite Courses and Assumed Knowledge and Capabilities	Research Practice One
Course Description	<p>Research Practice Two is a required course for all students in the Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours) program. In this course you will undertake a mix of self directed and supervised research that is relevant to your honours research project. You will complete your research, presenting it in an appropriate way for examination, which may include a thesis, or project accompanied by a written exegesis for project based research.</p>
Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Capability Development	<p>Upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a variety of approaches for undertaking complex research tasks; • investigate a key question, debate or problem in your discipline via a research project; • implement a successful research strategy; and • present the outcomes of a major research investigation/exploration. <p>The following program capabilities are developed in this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply research skills and practices to address complex problems; • develop deep knowledge of your field and its relevance to contemporary media and communication; • use research as an integral part of your creative and critical reflective practice; • undertake sophisticated, self directed research; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain why your research matters and to whom, and express your research in relevant ways.
Overview of Learning Activities	<p>You will have regular, individual meetings with your supervisor, whose role is to mentor you in your research learning and the research outcomes you are seeking to achieve.</p> <p>The major activities will be reading, writing, and making, as appropriate, in close consultation with your supervisor. An iterative cycle of making, critique, and remaking will form the basis of your research practice, whether you are working in thesis or project and exegesis mode.</p>
Overview of Learning Resources	<p>The key resources you use will be the University library (and other research libraries) and other relevant collecting institutions that may contain material relevant to your project (other libraries, galleries, archives). In addition you will utilise some form of bibliographic management tool, and a variety of online resources to document and store your research activities, including a research blog, citation manager, and a social bookmarking service.</p>
Overview of Assessment	<p>Your research project will be examined by two examiners, subject to RMIT University's Honours examination guidelines. Please see Part B for details.</p>
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