



Faculty of Arts

School of Social Sciences, Media and Communication

Media, war and peace

STS390

Subject Outline: Autumn 2006

Credit Points	8
Pre-requisites	24 cp at 200 level

Subject coordinator	Brian Martin
Mailing address	STS, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522
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Fax	4221 5341
Email	bmartin@uow.edu.au
Web	www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/
Consultations	Sometimes you can find me in my office, especially in the afternoons. You are also welcome to contact me by phone (at home after 7am and before 9pm, please), fax or email, to discuss any issue or make an appointment.

for Arts Enquiries	▶ staff contact details
Faculty of Arts Enquiry Centre	▶ timetable
room 19.1050	▶ assignment coversheets
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm	▶ handbooks
phone 4221 5328	▶ assignment submission
www.uow.edu.au/arts	▶ administrative forms
fac_arts@uow.edu.au	▶ general information

STS390 Subject Schedule

Week	Beginning		
1	Mon 20 February		Conspiracy theories
2	Mon 27 February		Backfire
3	Mon 6 March		Deciphering violence; shorts
4	Mon 13 March		Commtech; shorts; class activities
5	Mon 20 March		Lying; shorts; class activities
6	Mon 27 March		Shorts; class activities
7	Mon 3 April		Shorts; class activities
8	Mon 10 April		Shorts; class activities
Recess	Mon 17 April	NO CLASS	
9	Mon 24 April		Shorts; class activities
10	Mon 1 May		Shorts; class activities
11	Mon 8 May		Shorts; class activities
12	Mon 15 May		Shorts; class activities
13	Mon 22 May		Evaluation; shorts

Subject Description

The content in this subject includes material relating media to war and peace, in the wide sense including violence and nonviolence. It includes news coverage – or lack of news coverage – of wars, peace initiatives, interpersonal violence and peaceful living. It also includes war, peace, violence and nonviolence in the media outside the news: advertisements, dramas, comedies, etc. It includes mass media and alternative media. It includes the social forces that shape the form and content of the media. And much else.

We can look at this content from various angles, called theories or perspectives. We will cover five theories in weeks 1 to 5. The goal in covering both content and theory is to understand theory by applying it to case studies and to see media/war/peace through new perspectives.

Assessment Summary

Assessment	Format	Length	Due Date	Weighting
1 Attendance			Every week	<i>See Notes</i>
2 Participation	Weekly reading reports	1 minute	Each Week	10%
3 Shorts	Two reports or activities	5 minutes	<i>See Notes</i>	20%
4 Class Activity	Class time organised by student group	20 minutes	Allocated in class	20%
5 Project Plan	Summary	150 words	Week 11	10%
6 Project Report	Leaflet and dialogue	2500 words	Noon Monday 29 May	40%

Note re group work

University regulations restrict group work to no more than 30% of total assessment. For example, you can work in a group for the class activity (20%) and one short (10%).

Class Contact Details

- Contact details for the subject coordinator are on page 1.
- Class times and locations are available from the University's website. Please note that class times on the timetable are provisional, as follows:
- Mondays 9.30-12.30, 19.2002
- Mondays 13.30-16.30, 19.2002
- Tuesdays 9.30-12.30, 19.2002
- Wednesdays 9.30-12.30, 19.2002
- Fridays 10.30-13.30, 1.G01
- Students should enrol in classes via SOLS before the start of session.
- Those with timetabling difficulties should see the subject coordinator.

Subject Requirements

- **Attendance requirements:** Attendance is required. If you attend less than 80% of classes, for whatever reasons – health, work, etc. – you will be given an extra assignment, whose satisfactory completion will be required to pass the subject. If you are present for only part of a class, that counts as fractional attendance.
If you can't attend your usual class, you are welcome to attend one of the other classes during the week instead. To make up for missed classes, you can attend more than one class in a week during weeks 6 to 12.
- **Completing the subject:** To pass the subject, you must obtain at least 50% overall from the assessment components (participation; shorts; class activity; project plan; project report) and satisfy the attendance requirements stated above.
- **Extensions for written work:** I will grant extensions only when applications for special consideration are made through SOLS.
- **Penalty for late submission of work:** 10 marks per day out of 100.

Failure to meet these requirements can lead to a technical fail in the subject.

STS390 Tutorial Schedule and Readings

• Week 1. Conspiracy theories

Bring to class an article about a conspiracy theory or about conspiracy theories generally and be ready to report on it.

• Week 2. Backfire

Some attacks backfire against the attackers. This is based on my own current research. You can read articles about this theory at <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/pubs/backfire.html>. See especially the articles on the invasion of Iraq and the beating of Rodney King.

• Week 3. Deciphering violence

Karen Cerulo has analysed the standard ways that violence is described in stories. Her book is in the reserve collection: Karen A. Cerulo, *Deciphering Violence: The Cognitive Structure of Right and Wrong* (New York: Routledge, 1998). A key extract from this book is an e-reading listed under STS390. Bring to class pages from a newspaper or magazine with news stories about wars, murders or other violent events.

• Week 4. Communication technology for nonviolent struggle

Some types of communication technology are more useful for nonviolent struggle; others are more useful to militaries or repressive governments. See chapter five in my book *Technology for Nonviolent Struggle* (<http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/pubs/01tnvs/>).

• Week 5. Lying

A relevant article of mine is at <http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/pubs/03sa.html>

The following books are in the reserve collection. Others are in the regular collection.

Barnes, J. A., 1994. *A Pack of Lies: Towards a Sociology of Lying*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 177.3/4

Ekman, Paul, 1985. *Telling Lies: Clues to Deceit in the Marketplace, Politics, and Marriage*. New York: Norton. 153.6/24

Ford, Charles V., 1996. *Lies! Lies!! Lies!!! The Psychology of Deceit*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press. 153.83/32

Robinson, W. Peter, 1996. *Deceit, Delusion and Detection*. London: Sage. 177.3/5

Weaver, Paul H., 1994. *News and the Culture of Lying*. New York: Free Press. 071.3/26

Assessment Tasks - in detail

Task 1 - Participation

due: weeks 1 to 13
weighting: 10%
length: One minute

Each class will decide a sequence of topics. Each week, you are expected to read a substantial article (more than 1000 words) on the topic – or the equivalent in another medium – and give a one-minute verbal report on it to the class.

Task 2 - Two shorts

due: In class in weeks adding up to 16 or less. An example: one short in week 6 and the other in week 10. Another example: both shorts in week 8.
weighting: 20% (10% for each short)
length: 5 minutes per person per short

Each short is a brief report or activity. Each one covers a current event in the media and how it relates to a theory (as covered in weeks 1 to 5) or to a concept related to peace/war such as militarism, pacifism, conflict resolution, genocide, social defence, aggression, terrorism, just war, torture, peacekeeping, positive peace, disarmament, peace conversion, realism (in international relations), or centre of gravity (in Clausewitz's framework).

You should present one or more relevant items from the media. These may be newspaper or magazine articles, video clips, email messages, etc.

You should also refer to at least two sources, such as books or scholarly articles, about the theory/concept.

Short reports must be spoken from memory or dot-point notes, not read from text. Alternatively, you may design an activity for the class: you don't have to speak at all!

Suggestion: when you put text on the screen, let the audience read it – in silence.

Timing: The maximum time per person per short is 10 minutes.

Shorts will be assessed using these criteria (roughly equally)

- Selection and understanding of media items
- Understanding of theory/concept
- Application of theory/concept to the media items
- Organisation and expression.

Task 3 - Class Activity

due: Assigned in class

weighting: 20%

length: 14 minutes per person

You can work individually or in a group of two or three students to run a class on a topic agreed by me. Topics normally should involve theory and a case study. The class can be run as a debate, game, quiz, small group exercises or any other activity that helps others to learn. You should not stand and talk, but should design one or more participatory activities. Consider using posters, handouts, tapes and videos. You should also include some method to evaluate how well the class has *understood* what you are trying to get across (not just how well they liked the activity). This is important!

Maximum time for each class activity is 14 minutes times the number of group members, e.g. 42 minutes for a three-person group. Less time than this is fine!

Class activities will be assessed using these criteria (roughly equally)

- knowledge of case study
- understanding of theory
- audience involvement
- aids (handouts, slides, posters, videos, etc.)
- method of evaluating how well the class has understood your message.

Task 4 - Project Plan

due: 24 hours before your week 11 class

weighting: 10%

length: 150 words (approximately)

A summary of what you plan to do in your project is due 24 hours before your week 11 class begins. You can send it to me by email. If it is satisfactory, your mark for the plan will be the same as for the project report. If not, I'll ask you to prepare a revised version. If you don't hand it in, you get zero for this component. The main purpose of this is to get you thinking about the project early. By all means submit your plan sooner!

Task 5 - Project Report

due: Noon Monday 29 May 2006
weighting: 40%
length: 2500 words

Submission: Either (1) send by express post (posted by noon on 29 May) to Brian Martin, STS, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522, or (2) put under the door to my office (19.2016).

Put your name on a cover sheet but not elsewhere on the report. In the dialogue, use a pseudonym for yourself and any other STS390 student, with an explanation on the cover sheet if needed.

Undertake a project involving a case study in the field of media/war/peace, analysing it using a theory covered in the subject, or another theory with my approval. For example, you might analyse war reporting using Cerulo's framework or analyse a peaceful protest using lying.

You are encouraged to work in a team on the project, but you must write your own individual report. If desired, reports in a team project can be linked together. See me about this.

Format: Write a leaflet on behalf of an organisation, such as a business, church, government body, charity, trade union or activist group – but not a news organisation. Aim at 600 to 800 words of text, with a maximum length of 1000 words. Use footnotes to give references and to explain points that are complex or not fully treated in the text of the article or letters. (Footnotes do not count in the word total.) Include graphics – with acknowledgement of sources – if you wish.

Supplement the leaflet with a 1500-word dialogue between you, your group members and anyone else relevant about how you chose your case study, how you gathered materials, how you found out about your chosen organisation, what you discovered about the strengths and weaknesses of your theory, any unexpected findings, difficulties, future topics for investigation, etc.

Project reports will be assessed using these criteria (roughly equally)

- Knowledge of the case study and relevance to the organisation
- Understanding of theory
- Use of sources (about case study, theory and the organisation)
- Expression and appearance

Learning Outcomes/Tertiary Literacies

On successful completion of this subject, students will be able to: demonstrate knowledge of war and peace journalism, military censorship and media management; understand and apply theories explaining media dynamics and international politics; investigate media coverage on war and peace, violence and nonviolence; contribute to public debates about war and peace, violence and nonviolence.

Students will acquire the following information, and generic skills/competencies as a result of their participation in this subject: A commitment to continued and independent learning, intellectual development, critical analysis and creativity; Coherent and extensive knowledge in a discipline, appropriate ethical standards and, where appropriate, defined professional skills; Self confidence combined with oral and written communication skills of a high level; A capacity for, and understanding of, teamwork; An ability to logically analyse issues, evaluate different options and viewpoints and implement decisions; An appreciation and valuing of cultural and intellectual diversity and ability to function in a multi-cultural or global environment; A desire to continually seek improved solutions and to initiate, and participate in, organisational, social and cultural change; An acknowledgment and acceptance of individual responsibilities and obligations and of the assertion of the rights of the individual and the community.

Conventions Governing Written Work

Consult the relevant School and Program on the Faculty of Arts website for the appropriate referencing system used for this subject at www.uow.edu.au/arts

Presentation: discussed in class

Plagiarism

Giving and gaining credit for ideas is so important that a violation of established procedures has a special name: plagiarism. Plagiarism means using the ideas of someone else without giving them proper credit. That someone else may be an author, critic, journalist, artist, composer, lecturer, tutor or another student. Intentional plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. Unintentional plagiarism can result if you don't understand and use the acceptable scholarly methods of acknowledgment. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Irrespective, the University may impose penalties which can be very severe.

For full details about the University's plagiarism policy see:
www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/plagiarism.html

Submission of Assignments

- Receipts are not required, but if you want a receipt for your assignment, just fill out the bottom section of the coversheet and ask me to sign the form or date-stamp it for you.
- Students must keep a copy of all work/assignments handed in.
- Assignments sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted unless agreed between the lecturer and student.

Return of Assignments

- The University's Code of Practice Teaching and Assessment requires that at least one assignment be assessed and returned before Week 9 of session.
- For shorts and class activities, I will give written comments and marks to you or one of your group members at the end of the class. Don't leave without the comments!
- For your project plan and report, I will email you comments and your mark. I won't write comments on your written submission and will not return it unless you ask for it.

Special Consideration

Students who miss a deadline, or fall below the minimum attendance requirements, or otherwise find their work in the subject affected by illness or serious misadventure should lodge a formal request for Special Consideration via SOLS. The procedures for lodging a request are available at:

www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courseules/specialconsideration.html

Codes of Practice, Rules and Guidelines

The University has in place codes of practice, rules and guidelines that define a range of policy issues on both educational and student matters. The policies relevant to the Faculty of Arts and their web addresses are as follows:

Code of Practice Teaching & Assessment: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/codesofprac/teaching_code.html
Code of Practice Honours: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/honourcode.html
Code of Practice Students: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/codesofprac/cop_students.html
Code of Practice Student Discipline: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/generalrules/student_discipline_rules.html
EEO Policy: staff.uow.edu.au/eeo
Special Consideration Policy: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/specialconsideration.html
Non-Discriminatory Language Practice & Presentation: staff.uow.edu.au/eeo/nondiscrimlanguage.html
Occupational Health and Safety: www.uow.edu.au/about/policy/ohs.html
Intellectual Property: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/ownershipofwork.html
Human Ethics Research Guidelines: www.uow.edu.au/research/rso/ethics/
Student Academic Grievance Policy: www.uow.edu.au/handbook/courserules/studacgrievpol.html

Support Services

Both the Faculty and the University offer support services to its undergraduates.

Arts Administrative Support

Faculty of Arts Enquiry Centre - 19.1050
phone: 02 4221 5328 fax: 02 4221 5341
www.uow.edu.au/arts

Sub Dean

the Sub Dean is located in room 19.1074 -
to make an appointment to see the Sub Dean,
contact the Sub Dean's Assistant in room 19.1073
or phone: 02 4221 4838

Course Readers and Textbooks

UniShop - Building 11
phone: 02 4221 8050 fax: 02 4221 8055
unishop.uow.edu.au

Student Administration

Student Enquiries Counter - Building 36
or Student Service Centre - Building 17
phone: 02 4221 3927 fax: 02 4221 4322
e-mail: studenq@uow.edu.au
www.uow.edu.au/student/centre
www.uow.edu.au/student/sols

Disability Liaison Officer - Building 11
third floor of the UniCentre building
phone: 02 4221 3445 fax: 02 4221 5667
www.uow.edu.au/student/services/ds

University Library, including the Faculty Librarian

Building 16
phone: 02 4221 3548
library.uow.edu.au

for enquiries for the Faculty's Disability Officer or
Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Officer,
contact the Arts Enquiry Centre

Learning Assistance

Learning Resource Centre - 19.G102
phone: 02 4221 3977
www.uow.edu.au/student/services/ld

Careers Service - Building 11

phone: 02 4221 3325
www.uow.edu.au/careers

Counselling Service - Building 11 (level 3)

phone: 02 4221 3445
www.uow.edu.au/student/services/cs

Woolyungah Indigenous Centre - Building 30 (Aboriginal Education Centre)

phone: 02 4221 3776 fax: 02 4221 4244
www.uow.edu.au/aec

Faculty Handbook

The Faculty issues a Handbook free of charge to all students enrolled in an Arts Subject. It contains information on the structure of the Faculty's degrees, the majors offered, the more important University policies and other matters that may affect your time as a student in the Faculty.