CULT2130 - Media Structures and Practices
Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Kelli Fuery
Ph: TBA
Fax: 0249 216933
Room: GP 2.15
Email: kelli.fuery@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday or Thursday 11-12pm, or by appointment

Course Overview
Semester: Semester 1 - 2008
Unit Weighting: 10

Teaching Methods
- Lecture Thursdays 10-11am GP 2-1
- Tutorial

Brief Course Description
Media Structures and Practices interrogates the theory, organisation, meaning and 'lived practice' of contemporary media structures, principally from the perspective of cultural and media studies. The course focuses upon the key areas of media and communication in contemporary society: popular music, radio, television and film, and their points of similarity and convergence. Particular emphasis is placed upon Australian media structures, and how they relate to global media contexts. They will be examined as structures that not only document social change, but have the potential to transform societies. The course also examines 'new' media technologies, and their potential effects upon existing organisational structures.

The course seeks to examine how and why consumers find pleasure in the media as part of their daily lives, and how it is used in a variety of social relationships. This cannot be understood without also seeing how media is produced, as a series of cultural industries with global reach. Positioned somewhere between economics and consumption, the role of government is important in establishing frameworks for production and consumption. Media policy will be examined in relation to its power to establish and change institutional practice.

Contact Hours
- Tutorial for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
- Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2008

CTS Download Date: 30th January 2008
Learning Materials/Texts


2. Blackboard / Lecture notes

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the histories of workplace practices, traditions and ethical frameworks relating to the media, particularly local institutions.
2. Analyse the role of government and policy frameworks within different media forms.
3. Discuss contemporary issues relating to media organisation, and the tensions between local and the global practices.

Course Content
This course examines the media as institutions in the 'consciousness industry' operating as producers of capital, images and ideologies. It involves:

- Case study analysis of media organisations (large, medium-sized and small) in their specific settings.
- Appraisal of claims to professional status of journalists, and the information, investigative and entertainment-based roles in contemporary journalism.
- Comparison and contrast of different forms of media practice and cultural production (such as print and electronic journalism, television, the internet, radio broadcasting, advertising, film and music making).
- Theoretical consideration of the tension between culture and commerce in the media.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Items</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group/tutorial participation and contribution</td>
<td>Including tutorial presentation worth 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Lecture Exam</td>
<td>Multiple Choice Quiz 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assumed Knowledge
60 units at 1000 level

Callaghan Campus Timetable

**CULT2130**
**MEDIA STRUCTURES & PRACTICES**

Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Lecture and Tutorial</strong></th>
<th><strong>Day</strong></th>
<th><strong>Time</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10:00 - 11:00</td>
<td>[GP2-1]</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Tutorial</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>[V03]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 - 13:00</td>
<td>[MC110]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>13:00 - 15:00</td>
<td>[GP1-30]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14:00 - 16:00</td>
<td>[GP2-12/14]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>15:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>[GP3-16]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>[W308]</td>
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<td>or</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>[W308]</td>
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<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>16:00 - 18:00</td>
<td>[GP2-12/14]</td>
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</table>
Essential Criteria in Assessment

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS. They are:

1. The attendance and completion of one in-lecture exam.
2. The completion of the 1500 word essay (1).
3. The completion of the 2000 word essay (2).
4. The completion of a tutorial presentation based on a weekly topic.

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to enrol in the Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system. Refer - [http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm](http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm)

NB: Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: Refer - [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Opposite Café Central, Ourimbah
- **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.

*NB: Not all of these services may apply to the Port Macquarie Campus.*
- **Do not fax or email assignments**: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments**: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

- Essay 1 (1500 words)
- Essay II (2000 words)

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.

**Special Circumstances**

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**Re-marks**

Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)

**Return of Assignments**

Students can collect assignments from a **nominated** Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

**Preferred Referencing Style**

In this course, it is recommended that you use the use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). For further information on referencing and general study skills refer - ‘Infoskills’ available @ [www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html)
**Student Representatives**

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

**Student Communication**

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

**Essential Online Information for Students**

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services is available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html)

**Plagiarism**

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Written Assessment Items**

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

**Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations**
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2008

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2008

For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2008

For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2008

For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2008

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au
Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

• Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
• Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Education and Arts**


**Contact details**

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie

Phone: 02 4921 5000

Email: [EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au)

**The Dean of Students**

Resolution Precinct

Phone: 02 4921 5806

Fax: 02 4921 7151

Email: [resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

**Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)**

Phone: 02 4348 4123

Fax: 02 4348 4145

Email: [resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au)

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)

**Alteration of this Course Outline**

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

**Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards**


**Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards**


**Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards**


**STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS**

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.
If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Important Additional Information

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details
- Online copy submission to Turnitin
- Penalties for Late Assignments
- Special Circumstances
- No Assignment Re-submission
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Preferred Referencing Style
- Student Representatives
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

In-Lecture Exam (30%) Week 14

There will be 1 closed book, one hour multiple choice exam covering the lectures and reading material. It will be held in the lecture theatre at the usual lecture time in week 14. The exam will involve judgement of students’ ability to understand key media studies concepts, and link media studies theories and debates derived from textbook and lecture material. Attendance at and completion of the exam is compulsory. The exam will be marked according to university grading standards (see table below).

Tutorial Presentation (15%) & Essay I (25%) 1500 words

Tutorial Question

Students are required to select a question and week to undertake a tutorial presentation (20 minutes each) which will operate from weeks 4 to 13. All presentations must outline and critically analyse all the readings for their week. The presentation will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Ability to clearly outline the features of your media form
- Evidence of use of at least 3 academic sources (not including the text)
- Use of wider contemporary media material
- Ability to analyse contemporary media issues
- Presentation of material and clarity of explanation

Tutorial Question Essay

The 1500 word essay based upon the tutorial question is due on the same day as your tutorial presentation. The essay will assessed according to the following criteria:

- Structure (intro; body; conclusion)
- Application of concepts & definitions
- Construction of an argument/critical evaluation
- Research (at least 3 academic sources)
- Presentation (margins, font, spacing)
- Referencing (in text and reference list)
**Essay II**  (30%) DUE WEEK 12 2000 words

**Question**
Various laws and guidelines govern what we watch, hear, read and view. Choose one media sector (e.g. radio, television, film, popular music, print, the internet) and outline the local policies and regulations governing production and consumption. Where is regulation/monitoring of content justified or not justified? What are the fears/concerns driving censorship practices?

Key things to remember:
- You are expected to use at least 3 academic sources that are not text chapters
- Your choice media sector cannot be the same media form as your tutorial topic/essay

The 2000 word essay based upon the tutorial question is **due on Friday in week 12**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
<th>Fail (FF)</th>
<th>Pass (P)</th>
<th>Credit (C)</th>
<th>Distinction (D)</th>
<th>High Distinction (HD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Assessment at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Institutions, Practice &amp; Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Policy Frameworks</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Talk Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Music Radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Advertising and Public Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>The Internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>New Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Celebrity (ESSAY II DUE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Futures &amp; Funding: Commercial or public?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>In-Lecture Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mid Year Examination Period: Tuesday 10 June to Friday 27 June 2008

**NB: Mid-Semester Recess:** Monday 14 April to Friday 25 April 2008
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/ date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 21 February</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td><em>Course Outline</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(Tutorial Presentations Organised) |
| 4 13 March | **Talk Radio**  
*Using the course reading, present a case study of one commercial talkback radio station, analysing the relationship between its audience, advertisers and broadcasters* |
| 5 20 March | **Print**  
*Present a case study of one daily newspaper (local, state or national) to discuss the future of newspapers. Do they remain influential in the public sphere?* |
| 6 27 March | **Music Radio**  
*Discuss the differences between public and commercial music radio for youth audiences. How vital is radio as a promotional tool for new artists in 2007?* |
| 7 3 April | **Film**  
*What are the current ways that governments support the Australian film industry? How and why should local film be* |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial Question</th>
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</table>
In an age of global media, should Australian TV be protected by a local content quota? How is television meeting the challenge of rival media forms to retain its audiences? |
What was ‘cash for comment’? Are the media industries sufficiently regulated to distinguish editorial statements from advertising material? |
What are the advantages and flaws of online journalism? Discuss one example of an internet news site in your answer. |
Analyse one example of new media that exploits a convergence of traditional media forms and delivery. |
Find and discuss one case study where celebrity has performed as the nexus between the media, entertainment and public relations/advertising industries. |
Define the key differences between public and commercial media. What is the future of public media in an increasingly commercial media world? |
| 14-5 June  | In-Lecture Exam                          |                                                                                   |
KEY INSTITUTIONAL WEB SITES

- ARIA: www.aria.com.au
- Australian Broadcasting Authority: www.aba.gov.au
- Australian Film Commission: wwwafc.gov.au
- Australian Press Council: www.presscouncil.org.au
- Federal Department of Communications, Information & Technology: www.dcita.gov.au
- Film Finance Corporation: wwwffc.gov.au
- Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance: www.alliance.org.au
- Musicians’ Union: wwwmusiciansunion.com.au
- NSW Film & TV Office: www.fto.nsw.gov.au
- Triple J website (ABC radio): http://www.abc.net.au/triplej/

Journals

- Media International Australia
- Media, Culture & Society
- Metro
- Television & New Media
- European Journal of Communication
- Australian Journalism Review
- Australian Journal of Communication
- Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural studies

Television

- Media Watch: ABC TV, Mondays 9.15 pm
- Media Watch web site: www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/

Radio

- ABC Radio National – The Media Report, 8.30 am, Thursdays

FURTHER READINGS


