

Module code: MOD007429	Version: 1 Date Amended: 27/Jan/2020
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1. Module Title
Fake News, Conflict and Law

2a. Module Leader
Neil Henderson

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA(Hons) Media, BA(Hons) Film and Media		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module explores a set of urgent issues in the context of contemporary media, focusing on 'fake news', conflict and law. The first part of the module explores different definitions of, as well as contemporary discourse around, 'fake news', before addressing specific examples of this phenomenon. The module considers 'fake news' from a range of perspectives, including politics, technology, and journalistic practice. The module explores possible ways of offsetting the problem of 'fake news'. The module then turns attention to representations of war and conflict in media, and specifically how different media forms have sought to stage and document social conflict. In this context, the module addresses a range of media depictions of war and conflict across inter alia print, sonic and audio-visual forms. Examples will be drawn from British and international contexts and from contemporary and historical settings. The third and final part of the module explores specifically legal issues surrounding the creation, use, consumption, and circulation of media. These includes an address to intellectual property rights, offering a detailed survey of copyright, trademark and patent law with a special emphasis on how they apply to media. The module also considers issues of privacy, surveillance and cybercrime. Overall, then, the module provides students with a clear understanding of a set of urgent, and related, issues in relation to contemporary media.

6b. Outline Content

Through reading of critical texts, analysis of sources, class discussion, and the reviewing of important examples, students will engage with debates around 'fake news'; concepts of 'post truth'; examples of 'fake news'; possible solutions to the 'fake news' crisis; questions of representations of war and conflict; analyses of media reports of war and conflict; questions of media law; knowledges of intellectual property law (copyright; trademark; patent); analysing cybercrime; understandings of privacy and surveillance.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Access to module materials online and at the library.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate systematic understanding of key concepts and paradigms relating to truth, conflict and law in the context of media
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate the ability to devise and sustain critical arguments, based on research methods and theoretical knowledge, of issues of 'fake news', accounts of war, and digital media law
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Ability to apply methods and techniques relevant to the analysis of media in the contexts post-truth, representations of war and digital media law
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Ability to critically evaluate research topics in the field of 'fake news', representations of war, and digital media law, to frame appropriate critical questions about these topics, and to formulate and communicate relevant judgements regarding them.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	One 1 hr lecture
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	One 1 hr seminar
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Seminar preparation, reading and research, work on assignments
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Critical Essay 2500 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-4	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Portfolio of notes 500 words

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]