

Media Production and Analysis (ATAR)

The Media Production and Analysis ATAR course aims to prepare students for a future in a digital and interconnected world by providing the skills, knowledge and understandings to tell their own stories and interpret the stories of others.

Students are encouraged to explore, experiment and interpret their world, reflecting and analysing contemporary life, while understanding that this is done under social, cultural and institutional constraints.

Students, as users and creators of media products, consider the important role of audiences and their context. This course focuses on the application of media theory in the practical process.

Course Structure

Year 11

Unit 1 – Popular culture

- This focus involves identifying what is meant by 'popular' culture and considering the types of media, ideas and audiences from which popular culture evolves. Students analyse, view, listen to and interact with a range of popular media, develop their own ideas, learn production skills and apply their understandings and skills in creating their own productions.
- Teachers select learning contexts that are familiar to students or provide stimulation and new experiences.
- In contexts related to popular culture, students have the opportunity to explore a variety of popular media work, and learn how to interpret the meanings created by codes and conventions.
- Students develop production and analytical skills and apply their understanding of media languages and audiences while learning about and working in specific production contexts.

Unit 2 – Journalism

- In this unit students will further their understanding of journalistic media. The breadth of this focus allows teachers to choose learning contexts that are of contemporary relevance and related to students' interests.
- In contexts related to journalism students analyse, view, listen to and interact with a range of journalistic genres and they undertake more extensive research into the representation and reporting of groups and issues within media work. They draw on knowledge when developing ideas for their own productions.
- Students extend their understanding of production practices and responsibilities. They become increasingly independent as they manipulate technologies and techniques to express their ideas in their productions.

Year 12

Unit 3 – Media art

- This unit provides the opportunity for students to explore and select from a range of media art and develop their understanding of media aesthetics. Media aesthetics in the context of this unit is the study of the emotional and intellectual response brought about by the way the techniques, codes and conventions that create the artistic quality of the media work have been applied.
- Students analyse, view, listen to and interact with contemporary and traditional examples of media art, identifying techniques and themes, meanings that are created and audiences' interpretations. They consider the representation of values and technological developments that influence perceptions of art within media work.
- Students are encouraged to experiment with technologies, structures, codes and conventions to express their ideas and creativity. They have the opportunity to extend their production skills and processes and the emergence of personal style.

Unit 4 – Power and persuasion

- The focus for this unit is power and persuasion, which includes the influential nature of media used as a form of propaganda and political persuasion.
- Through this broad focus, students extend their understanding of persuasive media, examining the way the media is able to reflect, challenge and shape values and attitudes. They critically analyse, view, listen to, and interact with a range of media work, considering the purposes and values of producers and audiences.
- Students synthesise a range of ideas, skills and processes to create their own media productions that express their views.