



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Introduction to Journalism

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	1000	18243	3, 2002	EXT	1.00	TWMBA

Academic Group:	FOART
Academic Org:	FOA004
HECS Band:	1
ASCED Code:	100703

STAFFING

Examiner: Craig Burgess

Moderator: Neil Lomas

SYNOPSIS

This course is designed to introduce students to the Australian news media and their practices. Emphasis will be placed on the need for students to think objectively about the main news events of the day, and the ways the print media have reported them. Students will be encouraged to achieve accuracy and objectivity within the constraints regularly imposed on print practitioners. Students will be introduced to news values, journalism research, interview skills and the elements that make up news stories. They will be given considerable practice in writing introductory paragraphs and handling direct and indirect quotations. To pass this course students must complete and hand in all items of assessment. The final grade will be calculated on the total mark only. Grades will be awarded at the percentiles of HD = 90 or more; A = 80-89; B = 65-79; C = 50-64; F = Less than 50.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a broad knowledge of the principles on which information is judged as news;
- identify the fundamental constituents of the Australian news media;
- write an introductory paragraph to a news story;
- write a news story.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Journalism History	20.00

2. Australian Journalism Practices	15.00
3. News Values	20.00
4. News Sources	10.00
5. Interviewing	10.00
6. News Writing	25.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the 'Book Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> by entering the author or title of the text.

Conley, D. 2002 *The Daily Miracle: An Introduction to Journalism*, 2nd edn, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

White, S. 1996 *Reporting in Australia*, 2nd edn, Macmillan, South Melbourne,

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

A Thesaurus

Any edition of *The Macquarie Dictionary*,

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	30
Directed Study	60
Private Study	75

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
1ST NEWS WRITING TEST	100.00	10.00	Y	13 Dec 2002
2ND NEWS WRITING TEST	100.00	20.00	Y	06 Jan 2003
3RD NEWS WRITING TEST	100.00	30.00	Y	17 Jan 2003
4TH NEWS WRITING TEST	100.00	40.00	Y	31 Jan 2003

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 All assessable items must be posted by due date. Late submissions will not be accepted unless accompanied by a valid medical certificate.

- 2 Correct English is essential to Journalism. Spelling, grammar and punctuation (See Module 1) will be taken into consideration when assignments are marked.
 - 3 First news writing test: complete all 5 articles.
 - 4 Second news writing test: complete all 4 articles.
 - 5 Third News Writing Test: complete all 3 articles.
 - 6 Fourth News Writing Test: complete both articles.
 - 7 The final grade is based on the cumulative total for all assessment items and is awarded according to Arts Faculty guidelines.
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