



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: News Reporting

| Subject | Cat-Nbr | Class | Term | Mode | Units | Campus |
|---------|---------|-------|---------|------|-------|--------|
| JRN | 2000 | 15015 | 2, 2002 | ONC | 1.00 | TWMBA |

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Dianne Jones
Moderator: Craig Burgess

PRE-REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: JRN 1000

SYNOPSIS

The philosophical rationale behind the free flow of information will be studied from practical and theoretical perspectives. Students will receive theoretical instruction and practice in interviewing and reporting. They will learn how to retrieve information from government, the courts, business, sports organisations and other social institutions. The journalist's role in society will be defined and explored through the use of research techniques involving the Internet, Freedom of Information, property and company searches and the use of newspaper databases. To successfully complete this course students must have access to the Internet.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will:

- Have built on print writing skills learned in Introduction to Journalism and have learned how to write basic news for radio;
- Have produced news stories under deadline conditions for print to a publishable standard and for radio to a broadcast standard;
- Have developed information gathering skills, especially in the area of interviewing;
- Have gained a greater understanding of the journalist's role in society.

TOPICS

| Description | Weighting (%) |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Attribution, direct & indirect quotes | 10.00 |
| 2. Interviewing techniques | 10.00 |
| 3. Building source material | 5.00 |
| 4. Fairness | 5.00 |
| 5. Internet news reporting | 5.00 |
| 6. Reporting for broadcast | 10.00 |
| 7. Broadcast news writing style and mechanics | 10.00 |
| 8. The legal system | 10.00 |
| 9. Covering the courts | 10.00 |
| 10. Defamation and contempt | 5.00 |
| 11. Government processes | 10.00 |
| 12. The journalist's role in society | 10.00 |

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.

Pearson, M 1997, *The Journalist's Guide to Media Law*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

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

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

| ACTIVITY | HOURS |
|----------------|-------|
| Assessment | 60 |
| Directed Study | 30 |
| Lectures | 13 |
| Private Study | 32 |
| Tutorial | 26 |

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

| Description | Marks Out of | Wtg(%) | Required | Due Date |
|---------------|--------------|--------|----------|-------------|
| PRINT REPORT | 100.00 | 20.00 | Y | 16 Aug 2002 |
| RADIO REPORT | 100.00 | 20.00 | Y | 06 Sep 2002 |
| COURT REPORT | 100.00 | 30.00 | Y | 07 Oct 2002 |
| ROUNDS REPORT | 100.00 | 30.00 | Y | 01 Nov 2002 |

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students must submit all items of assessment. Failure to do so will result in a fail grade for the course.
 - 2 All submissions must be handed in by the due date and time. Late submissions will not be accepted unless accompanied by a valid medical certificate.
 - 3 Assignments not handed in by the due date and time will receive a mark of zero.
 - 4 Extensions will not be approved for any item of assessment unless a valid medical certificate is presented with the request.
 - 5 The final grade will be determined on the basis of the total accumulated points, ie if the total of all items of assessment is within the Pass range, then the final grade is Pass (C). However, students must achieve a passing grade on assessment items 1, 2, 3 and 4 in order to be considered for a passing grade in the course.
 - 6 Assignments requiring the use of interviews, surveys, Internet databases etc. must meet University ethical requirements and the examiner must be satisfied these requirements have been met.
 - 7 All assignments must be submitted in typed or word processed form, and in a 12 point font.
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