



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Media Law and Ethics

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	2006	15039	2, 2002	ONC	1.00	TWMBBA

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Craig Burgess

Moderator: Neil Lomas

SYNOPSIS

This course provides a legal and ethical framework for professional practice in the field of journalism. Students will examine the Australian legal system, defamation law, contempt of court and parliament, and the law of copyright. The study of major developments in moral philosophy will form a foundation on which to analyse specific case studies, with particular reference to the MEAA (Journalists) Code of Ethics.

OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- differentiate between code and common law;
- identify copy that is defamatory, contemptuous, or infringes copyright;
- describe the principles of ethical decision-making, and;
- recall and interpret the MEAA Code of Ethics.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Australian Legal Systems	5.00
2. Principles of Defamation	25.00
3. Principles of Contempt	25.00
4. Other Legal Issues	5.00
5. History of Moral Philosophy	5.00

6. AJA Code of Ethics	15.00
7. Current Ethical Issues	20.00

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.

Anderson, D.A. 1987, *Pitfalls in the Law for Journalists*, 3rd edition, Mando Publications, Brisbane.

Hurst, J. & White, S.A. 1994, *Ethics and the Australian News Media*, Macmillan, Melbourne.

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

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	80
Private Study	85

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
LAW ESSAY 1500 WORDS	30.00	30.00	Y	09 Sep 2002
ETHICS ESSAY - 1500 WORDS	30.00	30.00	Y	22 Oct 2002
3 HOUR EXAMINATION	40.00	40.00	Y	END S2

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students must submit all items of assessment by the due date. Late submissions will not be accepted unless accompanied by a valid medical certificate. Otherwise, late assignments will be penalised at the rate of 10% per working day late for the first five working days, after which a zero grade will be awarded. NOTE: Since it is a requirement of the course that all items of assessment must be submitted, any assignments which are beyond the five working day limit will not be eligible for a grade, but must be of an acceptable standard. The assignments must be submitted by the examination date.
- 2 Use of correct English is essential to Journalism and Media Studies. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be taken into consideration in marking assignments. Severe deficiencies could mean failure in the course.
- 3 Grades will be awarded in this course on the basis of total accumulated points and in accord with Faculty guidelines.