



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Introduction to Journalism

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	1000	20978	1, 2003	ONC	1.00	TWMBBA

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Dianne Jones

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.

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.

, Any edition of, *The Macquarie Dictionary*,

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

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

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	33
Directed Study	40
Lectures	13
Private Study	50
Tutorial	24

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
FIRST NEWSWRITING TEST	20.00	10.00	Y	31 Mar 2003
2ND NEWSWRITING TEST	40.00	20.00	Y	09 May 2003 (see note)
THIRD NEWSWRITING TEST	60.00	30.00	Y	26 May 2003
FOURTH NEWSWRITING TEST	40.00	40.00	Y	13 Jun 2003 (see note)

NOTES:

- . FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE DUE DATE OF THIS TEST WILL BE ADVISED BY THE LECTURER IN CLASS IN WEEK 1. This assessment must be handed in by the due date and time (Due in by noon).
- . FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE DUE DATE OF THIS TEST WILL BE ADVISED BY THE LECTURER IN CLASS IN WEEK 1. This assessment must be handed in by the due date and time (Due in by noon).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 In order to be considered for a passing grade, students must submit all items of assessment. Failure to do so will result in a fail grade for the course.
 - 2 Items 2 and 4 of assessment must be handed in by the due date and time (due in by noon). Late submissions, unless accompanied by a valid medical certificate, will receive a 10% deduction in marks for each working day the submission is late.
 - 3 Items 1 and 3 of assessment must be handed in at the end of class. Given the emphasis on deadlines in everyday journalism, absence from class tests not accompanied by a valid medical certificate will receive a grade of zero.
 - 4 Correct English is essential in Journalism. Errors of spelling, grammar and punctuation will be penalised when assignments are marked. Severe deficiencies could mean failure in the course.
 - 5 The final grade is based on the aggregate of all assessment items and is assigned as follows: HD = 90-100, A = 80-89, B = 65-79, C = 50-64, F = 0-49
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