



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: News Reporting

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	2000	25015	2, 2003	EXT	1.00	TWMBBA

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Dianne Jones
Moderator: Craig Burgess

PRE-REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: JRN1000

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 completion of this course students will :

- Have built on print writing skills learned in Introduction to Journalism and have learned 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 and 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	5.00
12. The journalist's role in society	10.00
13. Ethics	5.00

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	30
Directed Study	30
Private Study	40
Project Work	60

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks Out of	Wtg(%)	Required	Due Date
PRINT REPORT	100.00	20.00	Y	15 Aug 2003
RADIO REPORT	100.00	20.00	Y	09 Sep 2003
COURT REPORT	100.00	30.00	Y	06 Oct 2003
ROUNDS REPORT	100.00	30.00	Y	31 Oct 2003

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this external course. However, it is the student's responsibility to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without prior approval, then a penalty of 10% of the total marks available for the assignment will apply for each of the first FIVE working days late, after which a zero mark will be given.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade, a student must: (i) submit all of the summative assessment items; and (ii) achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/> or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the Examiner. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Examiner. (c) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (d) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (e) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 All items of assessment must be submitted in typed or word processed form, and in a 12 point font (except for the radio report where format specifications are outlined in the assignment details).
 - 2 Assignments requiring the use of interviews, surveys etc. must meet University ethical requirements and the examiner must be satisfied these requirements have been met.
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