



The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

Description: Public Affairs Reporting

Subject	Cat-Nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	2004	20980	1, 2003	ONC	1.00	TWMBA

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Dianne Jones

Moderator: Neil Lomas

PRE-REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: JRN2000

SYNOPSIS

Public Affairs Reporting is an advanced reporting course stressing the watchdog role of the press and utilising investigative techniques, including computer-assisted reporting, Internet and other on-line searching. Students undertake in-depth practical assignments. Topics will include local, state, national and international government and politics, defence, immigration and multiculturalism, health, education and welfare, the environment, science, industrial issues, economics and finance.

OBJECTIVES

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

- demonstrate an understanding of the theories behind the watchdog role of the press in western society;
- demonstrate an understanding of public affairs, including local, state, national and international government and politics, defence, immigration and multiculturalism, health, education and welfare, the environment, science, industrial issues, economics and finance;
- demonstrate an ability to report public affairs at local, state and national levels; and
- apply computer-assisted reporting techniques to journalistic research.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Theories of the role of the press in society	20.00
2. Journalism research techniques	10.00
3. Using computer-assisted reporting for public affairs	20.00
4. Reporting local, state, national and international politics	20.00
5. Reporting other social institutions	20.00
6. Issues in public affairs	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.

Henningham, J. ed 1999, *Institutions in Australian Society*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Quinn, S 2001, *Newsgathering on the Net: An Internet Guide for Australian Journalists*, 2nd edition, MacMillan Education, 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.

Berkowitz, D. ed 1997, *Social Meanings of News: A Text Reader*, Sage, London.

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

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
REPORT 1	100.00	20.00	Y	18 Apr 2003
REPORT 2	100.00	20.00	Y	09 May 2003
REPORT 3	100.00	20.00	Y	30 May 2003
FINAL EXAM	100.00	40.00	Y	END S1

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students must submit and pass all items of assessment. Failure to do so will result in a fail grade for the course.
 - 2 All submissions must be submitted by 5pm on the due date. 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 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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