



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

### Description: Feature Writing

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	2003	34881	2, 2004	EXT	1.00	TWMB

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA004
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	100703

### STAFFING

Examiner: Trina McLellan  
Moderator: Dianne Jones

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: JRN2001 or PRL1001 or JRN1000

### SYNOPSIS

This course will concentrate on humanistic reporting and feature writing. Students will go into the community to research and write several kinds of features, including at least one done under deadline conditions. Students will also learn advanced interviewing techniques.

### OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will

1. be able to write a newspaper feature story
2. be able to analyse magazines; and
3. be able to write a magazine article.

### TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Magazines	25.00
2.	Precision Journalism	5.00
3.	Media Law	10.00
4.	Feature Writing	50.00

**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:**

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Calculator

Granato, L 2001, *Newspaper Feature Writing*, University of NSW Press, Sydney.  
(Rev. edn)

**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.

USQ Journalism Study Guide - see Study Desk - Additional Resources.

Aamidor, A 1999, *Real feature writing*, Mahwah, New Jersey.  
(Feature Writing)

Berger, AA 1998, *Media research techniques*, 2nd edn, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks.  
(Mass media - research - methodology)

Evans, H 1997, *Pictures on a page: photo-journalism, graphics and picture editing*, Pimlico, London.

Gillham, B 2000, *The research interview*, Continuum, London.  
(Interviewing - technique, research - methodology)

Harris, CR 2001, *Visual journalism: a guide for new media professionals*, Allyn & Bacon, Boston.  
(Journalism - data processing - reporters and reporting - photojournalism - newspaper layout and typography)

Meyer, P 2002, *Precision Journalism*, 4th edn, Indiana University Press, Bloomington.

Owen, W 1992, *Modern Magazine Design*, Wm C Brown, Dubuque.

Sedorkin, G 2002, *Interviewing: a guide for journalists and writers*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW.  
(Interviewing in journalism - technique - mass media - television)

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS:

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	30.00
Directed Study	40.00
Project Work	95.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
500 WORD FEATURE	100.00	20.00	13 Aug 2004
PROPOSAL FOR 1500 WORD FEATURE	100.00	10.00	11 Sep 2004
1500 WORD FEATURE	100.00	25.00	08 Oct 2004
EXAMINATION (3 HOUR CLOSED)	100.00	45.00	END S2 (see note 1)

### NOTES:

1. EXAM DATES WILL BE ADVISED WHEN TIMETABLE IS FINALISED.

## 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 a passing grade, students must demonstrate, via the summative assessment items, that they have achieved the required minimum standards in relation to the objectives of the course by obtaining at least 50% of the total weighted marks for all summative assessment. Students must submit all items of assessment. Failure to do so will result in a fail grade for this course.

### 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:  
The exam for this course is a RESTRICTED EXAMINATION, and candidates are allowed access to : \*writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); \*calculators which cannot hold textual information (students must indicate on their examination paper the make and model of any calculator(s) they use during the examination.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the next examination period.
- 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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in 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 The journalism course maintains high standards of spelling, grammar, syntax and style. Faults in any of these areas could render a project or proposal unacceptable.
  - 2 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.
-