



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

### Description: Introduction to Journalism

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	1000	50688	1, 2006	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

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

### STAFFING

Examiner: Janine Little

Moderator: Craig Burgess

### 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 effective introductory paragraphs and handling direct and indirect quotations.

### OBJECTIVES

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

1. demonstrate a broad knowledge of the theoretical and practical principles on which information is judged as news; (assessment item 2 refers)
2. identify the fundamental constituents of the Australian news media; (assessment item 4 refers)
3. write an introductory paragraph to a news story; (assessment item 1 refers)
4. write an industry compliant news story. (assessment item 3 refers)

### TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Journalism History	10.00
2.	Australian Journalism Practices	15.00
3.	News Values	20.00
4.	News Sources	10.00
5.	Interviewing	10.00

**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).

*The Concise Oxford Dictionary,*

((For International students if Macquarie not available))

, , *The Macquarie Dictionary,*

(Any edition)

Conley, D & Lamble, S 2005, *The daily miracle: An introduction to journalism*, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Kaplan, B 2003, *Editing made easy*, Penguin Books, Melbourne.

(revised edition)

Lockwood, K (ed) 2005, *Style: a guide for journalists*, News Limited, 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.

A Thesaurus

**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessment	33.00
Directed Study	40.00
Lectures	13.00
Private Study	50.00
Tutorials	24.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
FIRST NEWSWRITING TEST	100.00	10.00	31 Mar 2006 (see note 1)
SECOND NEWSWRITING TEST	100.00	20.00	28 Apr 2006 (see note 2)
THIRD NEWSWRITING TEST	100.00	30.00	19 May 2006 (see note 3)
FOURTH NEWSWRITING TEST	100.00	40.00	16 Jun 2006 (see note 4)

### NOTES

1. NB - NEW ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: All Faculty of Arts assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Centre on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date. This assessment must be completed in class in WEEK FOUR. Given the emphasis on deadlines in everyday journalism, absence from this class without a valid medical certificate will result in a grade of zero.
2. This assessment must be completed in class in WEEK EIGHT. Given the emphasis on deadlines in everyday journalism, absence from this class without a valid medical certificate will result in a grade of zero.
3. This assessment must be completed in class in WEEK ELEVEN. Given the emphasis on deadlines in everyday journalism, absence from this class without a valid medical certificate will result in a grade of zero.
4. This assessment must be completed in class in WEEK FIFTEEN. Given the emphasis on deadlines in everyday journalism, absence from this class without a valid medical certificate will result in a grade of zero.

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and 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. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one one-hour lecture and one two-hour tutorial per week.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To be assured of completing each assessment item satisfactorily a student must submit all of the items of summative assessment on the due date and achieve on each the minimum specified standards outlined in 4 (Requirements for a pass in the course).
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
**DEADLINES - EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE GRANTED ON ANY GROUNDS.**  
In fully documented cases of extreme medical disability, other production assignments of equivalent value will be set, **ON CONDITION THAT** the student fully informs the Examiner of such a need at the earliest convenient time.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:  
To be assured of receiving 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 submitting and passing all of 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/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 lodge the assignment at the USQ. (b) Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested 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 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.
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