



The University of Southern Queensland

## Course specification

<b>Description: Professional Communication Project</b>						
Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PRL	5021	54759	2, 2006	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA004
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	2
<b>ASCED code:</b>	080509

### STAFFING

Examiner: Barbara Ryan

Moderator: Aidan Burke

### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: PRL5020 and PRL5002

### RATIONALE

This course is seen as both the application of reading and planning completed in Applied Communication Theory and as conceptual and methodological preparation for thesis work in higher degree studies. During this course students will complete a project in an aspect of the application of communication theory to solving a professional, community, mass communication or cultural problem. The role of theory as a problem-solving tool will be monitored progressively in the form of periodic reports and lecturer-student consultation. Students are especially encouraged to link project processes where possible with various mass communication theories.

### SYNOPSIS

This course provides advanced professional preparation for students in the planning of public relations campaigns. The course builds on theory and practice taught previously in PRL5020 and PRL5002. The course allows students to initiate an original campaign through the stages of research, planning, implementation and evaluation. Students are directed to develop a public relations campaign that demonstrates a concerted effort to build socially responsible relationships by achieving research based goals through the application of strategic planning and the measurement of outcomes.

### OBJECTIVES

Objectives for this course are:

1. that students will become familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of key contemporary communication strategies in the context of their applicability to various industrial problems and needs;

2. that students will gain field experience in the design, application and evaluation of a project requiring the incorporation of public relations theory and techniques;
3. that students will have developed critical skills and a level of professional expertise in an organisational work environment that would be sufficient to justify their employment as public relations consultants.

## TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Research Skills	15.00
2.	Program Development	70.00
3.	Evaluation Techniques	15.00

## 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).

Austin, EW & Pinkleton, BE 2000, *Strategic public relations management: planning and managing effective communication programs*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ.

## 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.

- , , *Australian journalism review*,
- , , *Canadian journal of communication*,
- , , *Communication research*,
- , , *Critical studies in mass communication*,
- , , *European journal of communication*,
- , , *Journalism and mass communication quarterly*,
- , , *Media, culture and society*,
- , , *Media international Australia*,
- , , *Public opinion quarterly*,
- , , *Journal of broadcasting and electronic media*,

Ball-Rokeach, S & Cantor, M 1986, *Media audience and social structure*, Sage, Beverly Hills, CA.

Bormann, E 1989, *Communication theory*, Sheffield, Salom, Wis.

Fisher, B 1978, *Perspectives on human communication*, Macmillan, New York.

Fiske, J 1990, *Introduction to communication studies*, 2nd edn, Routledge, London.

Littlejohn, S 1996, *Theories of human communication*, 5th edn, Wadsworth, Belmont, CA.  
 Mortensen, CD 1973, *Basic readings in communication theory*, Harper & Row, New York.  
 Narula, U & Pearce, W 1986, *Development as communication*, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Illinois.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	25.00
Private Study	140.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
PROJECT WRITTEN REPORT	100.00	100.00	03 Nov 2006

## IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Examination information:  
There is no exam for this course.
- 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.
- 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 If assignments in the course require the use of surveys, interviews, etc., students should be aware of the University and Faculty of Arts ethical requirements/guidelines. (The course syllabus distributed to students in the first week of teaching provides this information.)
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