



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at
<<http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>>.

Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Media Law and Ethics

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
JRN	2006	66627	2, 2007	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA003
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100703

STAFFING

Examiner: Dianne Jones
Moderator: Aidan Burke

REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: JRN1000

SYNOPSIS

This course provides a legal and ethical framework for professional practice in the field of journalism. Students will examine the Australian legal system, defamation law, contempt of court and parliament, and the law of copyright. The study of major developments in moral philosophy will form a foundation on which to analyse specific case studies, with particular reference to the MEAA (Journalists) Code of Ethics.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. differentiate between code and common law; (All assessment items refer)
2. identify copy that is defamatory, contemptuous, or infringes copyright; (All assessment items refer)
3. describe the principles of ethical decision-making; (All assessment items refer)
4. recall and interpret the MEAA Code of Ethics. (All assessment items refer)

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Australian Legal Systems	5.00
2.	Principles of Defamation	25.00
3.	Principles of Contempt	25.00

4.	Other Legal Issues	5.00
5.	History of Moral Philosophy	5.00
6.	AJA Code of Ethics	15.00
7.	Current Ethical Issues	20.00

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).

Hirst, M & Patching, R 2005, *Journalism ethics arguments and cases*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

Pearson, M 2007, *The journalist's guide to media law*, 3rd edn, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards.

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.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	80.00
Private Study	85.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg(%)	Due date
CMA TEST	100.00	0.00	24 Aug 2007
LAW ESSAY 1 1500 WORDS	100.00	30.00	10 Sep 2007
ETHICS ESSAY 2 - 1500 WORDS	100.00	30.00	19 Oct 2007
2 HOUR EXAMINATION	100.00	40.00	END S2 (see note 1)

NOTES

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

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:

It is the students' 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 attendance consists of one 1 hour lecture and one 1 hour tutorial per week.
- 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 achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the 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); * course text books; * English language textbooks.
 - 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 lodge the assignment at the USQ. (b) 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. (c) 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. (d) 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. (e) 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. (f) 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 Use of correct English is essential to Journalism and Media Studies. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be taken into consideration in marking assignments. Severe deficiencies could mean failure in the course.
 - 2 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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