



## The University of Southern Queensland

### Course specification

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: Boring to Best

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
APN	7002	75225	1, 2008	WEB	0.50	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA003
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	100703

#### STAFFING

Moderator: Michael Sankey

#### REQUISITES

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in the following Program: APNJ

#### SYNOPSIS

This course follows on from APN training level 1 and focuses on writing for readers. A "traditional" news round is then approached through the perspective of storytelling to build newspaper readership. The course connects APN7001 to APN's Readers First readership development program and takes participants through to submission of three examples of Best journalism. Emphasis is on the people at the centre of events and issues in local government, and on ways that storytelling techniques can assist journalists with taking boring information, to Best stories. Participants will be encouraged to reflect actively upon how their stories account for the lifestyles, interests, and profiles of readers of their newspaper.

#### OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify the techniques and protocols of local government reporting.
2. Decide how information gathered in reporting local government is applied to writing for readers.
3. Reflect actively upon story value to readers of a particular newspaper and justify approaches taken to writing and story selection.
4. Present a complete portfolio of practice for assessment.

#### TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Quiz - Computer-Marked	15.00
2. Research record	15.00

3.	Best 3 Stories	40.00
4.	Personal story rationale	30.00

### **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).

### **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.

Grundy, Bruce 2007, *So you want to be a journalist?*, Cambridge University Press, Port Melbourne, Vic.

Harcup, Tony 2004, *Journalism principles and practice*, Sage, London.

Keeble, Richard 1998, *The newspapers handbook*, 2nd edn, Routledge, London.

### **STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	15.00
Directed Study	30.00
Professional Practice	35.00

### **ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
QUIZ - COMPUTER-MARKED	20.00	15.00	23 May 2008 (see note 1)
RESEARCH RECORD	15.00	15.00	27 Jun 2008 (see note 2)
BEST 3 - SELF-SELECTED STORIES	25.00	25.00	18 Jul 2008 (see note 3)
PERSONAL STORY RATIONALE	45.00	45.00	18 Jul 2008 (see note 4)

#### **NOTES**

1. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1 & 4.
2. All items must be submitted to electronic portfolio of practice for passing grade. Research details to be posted on blog. This assessment item is aligned with Objective 4.

3. Best 3 to be loaded with Personal Story Rationale as electronic file into portfolio of practice. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 2 & 4.
4. Personal story rationale must reflect Readers First principles and demonstrate engagement with course materials and content. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 2,3 & 4.

## **IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

- 1 Attendance requirements:  
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students' 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. Generally, participants are encouraged to participate in all course discussion via the Internet.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:  
To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:  
If students submit assignments after the due date without extenuating circumstances and without prior approval, then a penalty of a maximum of 5% of the assigned mark may apply for each working day late, up to a maximum of 10 working days, at which time a mark of zero can be recorded for that assignment.
- 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 obtained for each of the assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:  
There is no examination in this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:  
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- 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 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) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due

date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (e) Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements. (f) 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. (g) 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 Students enrolling in WEB courses MUST have ongoing convenient and reliable access to the Internet in order to access course materials and participate in activities that will affect assessment. The levels of equipment required may change from time to time, with the most recent specification listed at <http://www.usq.edu.au/currentstudents/computingstandards/default.htm>. You can check whether your computer system meets these requirements from USQAssist (<http://usqassist.usq.edu.au/>).
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