



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: Human Face, News Space

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
APN	7003	79269	2, 2008	WEB	0.50	Toowoomba

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

STAFFING

Examiner: Bryce Barker
Moderator: Michael Sankey

REQUISITES

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

SYNOPSIS

This course reviews the skill base needed by journalists assigned to report and write stories from courts most relevant to regional media in Australia. Rules and procedures in avoiding Contempt of Court and defamation actions will be covered, along with protocol for attending court hearings and dealing with sources. The means by which journalists can work within these rules and protocols to write engaging, interesting stories for readers will, however, be the emphasis of this course. Turning a conventional court hearing into a story with human interest value and impact will be explored through connection to Readers First principles and practices.

OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify the basic rules of Contempt of Court and defamation as relevant to Australian newspaper journalism.
2. Develop ability to find and write stories for readers, from court-based material.
3. Incorporate knowledge of court reporting with Readers First approach to stories.
4. Present a complete portfolio of practice for assessment.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Court reporting knowledge base	25.00
2. Preparation of court reports	35.00

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.

Breit, Rhonda 2006, *Law and ethics for professional communicators*, LexisNexis/Butterworths, Chatswood, NSW.

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

Pearson, Mark 2007, *The journalist's guide to media law*, 3rd edn, Allen and Unwin, Sydney.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	15.00
Directed Study	25.00
Professional Practice	40.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
COURT STORY 1	20.00	20.00	29 Aug 2008
REFLECTIVE DIARY - COURT EXPER	20.00	20.00	12 Sep 2008 (see note 1)
COURT STORY 2	20.00	20.00	26 Sep 2008 (see note 2)
COMPUTER MANAGED ASSESSMENT	40.00	40.00	17 Oct 2008 (see note 3)

NOTES

1. Reflective Diary - Court Experience must include at least one human interest story or feature idea with Readers First rationale, page concept, pictorial options. The idea can form basis of Court Story 2.
2. Participants will be expected to file two publishable stories for portfolio of practice .

3. This is an item of computer-managed assessment - to be completed by conclusion of the course..

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 satisfactorily complete an individual assessment item a student must submit all items in the portfolio of practice.
- 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.

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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