



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: Theories and Discourses of Power

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
CMS	3012	86510	1, 2009	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA003
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	1
<b>ASCED code:</b>	100700

### STAFFING

Examiner: Karey Harrison  
Moderator: Andrew Mason

### SYNOPSIS

This course examines the institutional and rhetorical structuring of communication in the exercise of power and control in society. The mechanisms by which communicative interactions contribute to social integration, maintenance or subversion of relations of dominance and subordination, privilege and disadvantage will be considered in the context of competing theoretical frameworks making explanatory claims with respect to these phenomena.

### OBJECTIVES

On successful completion of this course students will have:

1. an appreciation of the range of ways in which communication affects social control;
2. an ability to conduct a library search on a topic of their own choosing;
3. an ability to critically assess particular communicative situations in terms of their social power relations and their ethical implications;
4. an understanding of the theories and concepts relating to communication and social control.

### TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Language and Power	20.00
2. Theories of Social Power and Control	35.00
3. Power and Mass Media	15.00
4. Politics and Power	5.00
5. Economics and Power	5.00
6. Discourses of Power	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).

Ancillary Course Material: <http://www.usq.edu.au/course/material/CMS2011/>

Gerbner, G, Mowlana, H & Schiller, H (eds) 1996, *Invisible crises: what conglomerate control of media means for America and the world*, Westview Press, Boulder.

**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
Private Study	165.00

**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
JOURNAL 1	100.00	15.00	30 Mar 2009 (see note 1)
LIBRARY EXERCISE	100.00	10.00	20 Apr 2009 (see note 2)
ESSAY PROPOSAL	0.00	0.00	20 Apr 2009 (see note 3)
JOURNAL 2	100.00	30.00	15 Jun 2009 (see note 4)
2500 WORD ESSAY	100.00	45.00	15 Jun 2009 (see note 5)

**NOTES**

1. This assessment item relates to Objectives 1 & 3.
2. This assessment item relates to Objective 2.
3. This assessment item relates to Objective 4.
4. This assessment item relates to Objective 1 & 3.
5. This assessment item relates to Objective 4.

**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

- 1 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.
- 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 aggregate of the weighted marks 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/make-up work is granted, it would have to be submitted by the 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>

## 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).

10 Students will require access to email and have internet access to USQConnect for this course.