



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: Principles and Practice of Public Relations

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PRL	1002	87179	1, 2009	ONC	1.00	Springfield

<b>Academic group:</b>	FOART
<b>Academic org:</b>	FOA003
<b>Student contribution band:</b>	3A
<b>ASCED code:</b>	080509

### STAFFING

Examiner: Chris Kossen  
Moderator: Barbara Ryan

### SYNOPSIS

Public Relations\* focuses on understanding and developing the relationship between an individual or more often, an organisation, and the "public" or "publics" with which that organisation must effectively co-exist. This course is designed to introduce students to Public Relations, the nature and history of the profession and the theoretical foundations of contemporary public relations practice. Within this framework, topics covered within the course include: definitions of public relations and other key terms and concepts; the identification of internal and external publics; descriptions of core public relations processes; and the tools of public relations. Finally, through the use of case study analysis, the student is introduced to programme design encompassing research, goals, objectives, strategies, tools and tactics and evaluation. \* Public Relations remains a commonly used term, however, in many ways of business and government terms such as Corporate Communication and Public Affairs are perhaps more frequently used. We have elected to adhere to the more traditional term for the sake of simplicity and effective communication.

### OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. define and describe public relations;
2. explore the foundations of public relations practice and its development to the present day;
3. demonstrate academic and professional literacy skills by describing and applying the core theories underpinning contemporary public relations practice;
4. demonstrate problem-solving skills appropriate to the discipline by integrating those theories into the analysis of a public relations case study;
5. identify and differentiate the internal and external publics associated with an organisation;
6. identify the methods and approaches used most frequently by public relations practitioners in designing and planning public relations initiatives;

7. howcomprehend how to develop a basic public relations campaign proposal incorporating the core elements of research, goals, objectives, strategies, tools and tactics and evaluation.
8. communicate in writing at a foundational level by planning and submitting an essay that conforms to disciplinary conventions.
9. communicate orally at a foundational level by planning and delivering a short oral presentation.
- 10.demonstrate ethical research and inquiry skills by comprehending and applying foundational principles of academic integrity.

## TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Definitions of Public Relations	10.00
2. The Foundations of Public Relations practice	10.00
3. Understanding and integrating core theories	30.00
4. Understanding internal and external publics	10.00
5. Identification of the core public relations methods and approaches	20.00
6. Programme conceptualisation and design	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).

Course PRL1002 Book of Selected Readings

Lattimore, D, Baskin, O, Heiman, S & Toth, E 2007, *Public relations: the profession and the practice*, 2nd edn, McGraw-Hill, New York.

## 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.

Black, S 1993, *The Essentials of Public Relations*, Kogan Page, London.

Broom, GM & Dozier, DM 1990, *Using Research in Public Relations: applications to program management*, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Capper, A & Cunard, P 1990, *The Public Relations Case Book: Major Campaigns in Action*, Kogan Page, London.

Cutlip, SM 2006, *Effective Public Relations*, 9th edn, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Gregory, A 2000, *Planning & Managing a Public Relations Campaign: a step-by-step guide*, 2nd edn, Kogan Page, London.

Grunig, JE & Hunt, T 1984, *Managing Public Relations*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York.

- Hunt, T 1994, *Public Relations Techniques*, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, Fort Worth, Texas.
- Jefkins, FW 1994, *Public Relations Techniques*, 2nd edn, Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford.
- Kendall, R 1999, *Public Relations Campaign Strategies: Planning for Implementation*, 3rd edn, Addison Wesley Longman, New York.
- Lesly, P 1997, *Lesly's Handbook of Public Relations and Communications*, 5th edn, NTC Business Books, Lincolnwood, IL.
- Newsom, D, Yurk, J & Kruckeberg, D 2000, *This is PR: The Realities of Public Relations*, 7th edn, Wadsworth, Belmont, California.
- Quarles, J & Rowlings, B 1993, *Practising Public Relations: A Case Study Approach*, Longman Cheshire, Melbourne.
- Seital, FP 2003, *The Practice of Public Relations*, 9th edn, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New York.
- Tymson, C & Sherman, B 1996, *The New Australian and New Zealand Public Relations Manual*, Millennium Books, Alexandria, NSW.
- Wilcox, DL et al 2007, *Public Relations: Strategies and Tactics*, 8th edn, Pearson Allyn & Bacon, Boston, Mass.

## STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	83.00
Examinations	3.00
Lectures	13.00
Private Study	40.00
Tutorials	26.00

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date	Objectives assessed	Graduate skill	Level assessed
ESSAY	100.00	30.00	03 Apr 2009	1, 2, 3		
PRESENTATION	100.00	30.00	15 May 2009	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
EXAMINATION (2 HOURS)	100.00	40.00	END S1 (see note 1)	1, 4, 5, 6, 7		

### NOTES

- Scheduled date of examination to be advised when timetables are finalised.

## 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.
- 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 / grades obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
  - 6 Examination information:  
The exam for this course is a CLOSED EXAMINATION, and candidates are allowed to bring only writing and drawing instruments into the examination.
  - 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>

## **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) 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. (d). 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. (e) 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. (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 can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonably be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.
  - 2 Students will require access to email and have internet access to USQConnect for this course.
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